Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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NOTICE TO READERS: On 6 May 1991, the DAILY REPORT will begin phasing in new radio and television sourcelines that reflect how a station identifies itself. This change eliminates the "Domestic Service" and "Television Service" designations in favor of the station identification as broadcast. The presence of a new sourceline reflects this change in policy, rather than the establishment of a new station or network.

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Palestinian Affairs

PLO Delegation Arriving Today in Jordan for Talks

LD0205133191 Jerusalem AL-TALI'AH in Arabic 2 May 91 p 1

[By AL-TALI'AH correspondent in Nicosia]

[Text] It has been learned that a PLO delegation is to arrive in Jordan today. This delegation consists of PLO Executive Committee members Mahmud 'Abbas, Sulayman al-Najjab, and Yasir 'Abd- Rabbuh. This visit is part of the Palestinian effort to consult and coordinate with the various Arab parties concerned, particularly Jordan, on the same basis proclaimed by the PLO Central Council in its recent session.

PLO in Moscow Discussed Conference

LD0205144091 Jerusalem AL-TALI'AH in Arabic 2 May 91 pp 1, 11

[By the AL-TALI'AH correspondent in Nicosia]

[Text] During the recent visit of a Palestinian delegation to Moscow, the Soviets called for continued consultations between the Palestinian and Soviet sides. The delegation was made up of PLO Executive Committee members Mahmud 'Abbas, Sulayman al-Najjab, and Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh.

In the talks held between the Palestinian delegation and Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, our correspondent has learned, the Soviet side posed two questions. The first question concerns the issue of a settlement and the PLO's stance regarding the proposed peace conference on the Middle East. The second question concerns Palestinian representation and the formation of a delegation for that conference.

In its response to those two questions, the Palestinians noted a number of points affirming the legal basis of the conference, represented in the resolutions of international legitimacy, including all Security Council resolutions, be they 242, 338, or those relating to settlement and the annexation of Jerusalem, and Resolution 681. They stressed that the conference must be continuous and not ceremonial. The Palestinian side also emphasized the need for UN and European participation in the conference, as well as the need to ensure a firm link between the phases of a solution, to enforce international protection during the negotiations, and to halt settlement. The delegation stressed that Palestinian representation should come from inside and outside the territories and that the PLO alone must form this delegation. The Palestinians also asked for guarantees with regard to the prospects of a settlement and its final outcome. The delegation urged the United States to resume the dialogue with the PLO and to protect the Palestinians in Kuwait.

The Soviet foreign minister praised the Palestinian position and the justness of its demands. He said a conference cannot be convened without a legal basis, and the United States, too, cannot ignore that. He also stressed that the Soviet Union will not support a settlement that does not resolve the Palestinian problem and does not ensure the return of the occupied territories.

Our correspondent has learned that the Soviets believe there is a possibility of promoting the current moves in coordination with the United States, Israel, and the other Arab parties. The Soviets also believe that a change has occurred in the U.S. proposals in that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker has become convinced of the need to talk about a peace conference rather than a regional conference, of U.S.-Soviet sponsorship of the conference, of UN and European participation in the conference, and of the need to refer to Resolutions 242 and 338.

In the opinion of the Soviet Union, the most important problem now is how to link the UN resolutions with the proposed conference. Our correspondent adds that Soviet Foreign Minister Bessmertnykh raised with Secretary of State James Baker all the issues put forward by the Palestinian side and that he noticed a U.S. understanding of some of those issues.

'Palestine' To Join in Arab Ministers' Meeting

LD0105225391 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 1 May 91

[Excerpts] In Tunis yesterday morning brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, met with officials and cadres of Palestinian popular organizations in the presence of brother Abu-al-Adib, member of the Fatah Central Committee.

During the meeting, president Abu-'Ammar explained various developments in the Palestine issue, the heroic steadfastness of our Palestinian people, and the daily escalation of their blessed intifadah, thus providing shining proof of our people's will and their insistence on gaining their just national right of establishing their independent state with holy Jerusalem as its capital. [passage omitted]

He focused on the importance of the new session of the Arab foreign ministers meeting, scheduled for 15 May. He said Palestine will participate in that meeting with a positive attitude to help turn a new page in inter-Arab relations. [passage omitted]

'Arafat: 'No Problems' in Egyptian-PLO Relations

NC0205185091 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 24 Apr 91 p 2

[Report by Nabil Zaki and Badr-al-Din Adham from Tripoli]

[Text] Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat has welcomed statements by Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime

minister and foreign minister, on the Palestinian issue. He said that Egypt always has taken the clearest possible stands in defense of this issue and in support of the PLO's legitimacy.

He said there are no problems in relations between the PLO and Cairo and that the PLO even has asked Egypt to help reach an understanding between the organization and Lebanese authorities to help bring the Lebanon's control over all Lebanese territory and implement Security Council Resolution 425. 'Arafat added that during a meeting with a Palestinian delegation led by Abu-Mazin in Cairo, President Husni Mubarak expressed full understanding of the Palestinian position and promised to make efforts in this respect.

This came in an interview Yasir 'Arafat granted to a number of Egyptian correspondents in the Libyan capital, Tripoli, during which he replied to AL-AKHBAR's questions on the current Arab situation and developments in the Palestinian issue.

'Arafat said the only solution now is to rebuild the unity of the Arab stand and to strengthen the Arab League, which is our only "umbrella" against the big international blocs. He praised the Cairo meeting of Arab envoys to the Arab League, saying that "it is a new point of departure for the League".

Commenting on the U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's second meeting with Palestinian figures in the occupied territories, 'Arafat said that the U.S. stand has not changed and that, even though Baker told the Palestinians he had obtained Israel's pledge not to build new settlements, the Israelis went ahead and built a new settlement in Bethlehem.

'Arafat denied that European support for the Palestinian issue has waned. He said that at its recent meeting, the EC adopted decisions in favor of an international peace conference and the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

'Arafat underlined the Palestinian people's right to choose their representatives. He said: The PLO does not interfere in the selection of the Israeli delegation and does not insist, for example, that the New Communist List be the Israeli negotiator. Why then do they want to interfere in the formation of the Palestinian delegation?

Unified National Command Issues Call No 70

LD0205222991 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 2 May 91

[State of Palestine Unified National Command Call No. 70]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. No voice is higher than the voice of the uprising. No voice is higher than the voice of the PLO. Call No. 70 issued by the Unified National Command in the state of Palestine:

Masses of our gallant uprising. Forty-two months have passed and the glorious uprising still forgets it has gone far in making the entire world hear the roaring voice of our people, who surge forward mightily despite the enormity of the sacrifices, the ferocity of the savage Zionist onslaught and the expeditions of persecution and brutality to which our people have been exposed. Through all this our people declare their resolve to continue the march until their objectives of freedom, victory, and the establishment of their independent state on their national soil are accomplished.

The emergence of the Palestinian people's role in their gallant uprising and the rigid Palestinian political and diplomatic move which is moving with confidence relying on the increasing international demand for adherence to the resolutions of the international legitimacy for solving disputes and subsequently forcing the United States to deal with them with one criteria, all this has pushed our cause toward further forward positions, placed our issue in the forefront of the agenda of the international community, given it great urgency and priority and the readily increasing thrust which our gallant uprising had given with the legendary standards and the sacrifices and the steadfastness of the heroic Iraqi Army in the face of the Atlantic aggression has born fruit and forged ahead providing new strategic horizons in front of our Palestinian issue and make it imperative that it should be dealt with at an international level.

Despite the existence of political endeavors inside and outside the occupied soil to deal with the fast emerging political moves in the area and particularly U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's tour that all the PLO groups have agreed is trying to exploit the results of the Gulf war to impose the U.S. solution on the Palestinian issue.

The authors of these endeavors are adhering to the need to work to protect the role of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and to defend the unity of our people at home and abroad and foil the chance of any conspiracy aimed at liquidating the concept of the inalienable and nonnegotiable rights, namely: the right to return, self-determination, and the establishment of an independent Palestine with Jerusalem as its capital.

It is very important, so that there is no deviation from these objectives, that we work to entrench the democratic base and unify the political vision through a responsible dialogue governed by objective and constructive criticism and a forward-looking mind which is aware of the nature of the stage.

What we can confirm is that all the factions participating in the Palestinian struggle agree on this basis and their objective is to ensure that the Palestinian march attains the correct path—continuation of the intifadah, consolidation of its presence internally and abroad, the strengthening of its impact, and the entrenchment of its

vital and dynamic capacity to link issues and to make all those who had bet on its extinction or weakening lose their bet.

The Unified National Command perfectly realizes that a just and comprehensive settlement to the Palestinian question cannot be achieved through dialogue or future negotiations in isolation from the field struggle which spearheads political action. Nor can field struggle alone achieve that solution without a waging political battle. These two orientations are organically and dialectically related.

In this context, the Unified National Command hails the resolutions of the Palestinian Central Council, its reiteration of its commitment to the Palestinian constants, its rejection of the regional conference and of any conference that does not rest on the resolutions of international legitimacy, its positive and effective contribution to the political efforts being made, its attachment to the Palestinian peace initiative, its readiness to work toward carving out a larger scope for Arab and international forces and for putting them to use in order to rectify the path of the political process for solving the Palestinian question through the holding of an international peace conference with the participation of the parties concerned, including the PLO and the five UN Security Council permanent members.

The Unified National Command, while it condemns the continuation of repression and maltreatment perpetrated against the sons of our people in Kuwait at the hands of criminal gangs with the full knowledge of the Kuwaiti authorities, calls on the Arab popular forces to activate their solidarity with the Palestinian people and to set up permanent frameworks for supporting it. It also calls on the international community, which currently shows a sensitive human sentiment toward the Kurds in Iraq, to assume its responsibilities and to work for the protection of our people in Kuwait against the waves of tyranny and terrorism.

The Unified National Council highly prizes the PLO's readiness to contribute positively and constructively to the current efforts aimed at putting a definitive end to the Lebanese crisis and at settling the issue of the armed Palestinian presence in Lebanon in a way that will protect the ties of Palestinian-Lebanese brotherhood and provide security and protection for the camps of our people in Lebanon, and the enjoyment of their political rights to struggle within Lebanese sovereignty.

The Unified National Council prizes highly the advanced French attitude toward the Palestinian question and the meeting recently held between president Yasir 'Arafat and French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas. It considers it a European step in the right direction which must be followed by other steps in order to mould an independent and active European attitude toward the crisis.

The Unified National Council, with all its factions and elements, condemns the criminal assassination of a French tourist in Bethlehem, confirming that these suspect acts aim at harming the Palestinian national movement and distorting our people's image, be it their religion, patrimony, or history. We therefore reaffirm that the sacred intifadah is a revolution against occupation and a solution for a just peace that guarantees our people achieve their objectives of freedom and independence.

O masses of the brave uprising, our uprising is our fundamental choice; it is the real guarantee of reaching our national aims; it is the rescue ship to which we must cling. It represents the natural response to the conspiracies which our cause faces and to the savage practices to which our people are subjected. With our uprising entering its fourth year, the Zionist enemy multiplied its efforts aimed at destroying our material and moral entity and also its organized attempts to demolish the strong basis of our economic and educational foundations through its economic blockade and starvation of our people, as well as the closure of universities and institutes. The natural response to these practices is perhaps consecrating this year through construction, in which all our working and reserve resources are employed to reconstruct and develop our economic, scientific, and social institutions. They are working to make this a national priority for all our people's sons.

While it congratulates our brave workers on the international workers day, 1 May, the Unified National Command calls on factory and company owners to create the most jobs possible by expanding production, improving wages, and canceling repressive dismissals. It also reiterates the call to our workers to return to the land, increase its agricultural production, and affirm the will to stand fast on our land in the face of the crazy campaigns of settlement led by the the extremist right-wing government in Israel.

Taking the pulse of the masses now and then is necessary to affirm the complementary relationship between the requirements of struggle, action, and the economic needs of the masses. When the Unified National Command lays down its programs of struggle, it is concerned with making them adequate for the capability of the masses and their response in a way which serves public interest as the criterion is mainly the attachment of the masses of our people to and their trust in their leadership. From this basis, any change in these programs comes only after a conscientious study based on an understanding of the requirements of our masses and the announcement of these is done through the calls of the Unified National Command and not by spreading rumors in the streets and what is broadcast by the Zionist enemy's media.

O masses of our people, the Unified National Command calls for the following.

First, at a time when our workers are prevented from working, the Unified National Command finds it necessary to affirm the boycott of Israeli goods which have a national alternative and encourages local products. It

calls on the masses of our people everywhere to supervise this boycott and impose the adequate sanctions on those who violate it.

Second, the Unified National Command appeals to the teachers' union to work as of now for holding study courses to recompense A-level students who were unable to complete the curriculum as a result of the current circumstances. It also warns against the problem of cheating on exams for A-level certificates and the use of [word indistinct] in any school during the exams period and to regard anyone who cheats or to encourage cheating or the use [word indistinct] to be acted outside the national line. The Unified National Command demands the formation of teacher committees and student guardians to tackle this problem.

Three, the Unified National Command reaffirms that the days of total strike are decided by the calls of the Unified National Command and the statements of the Hamas movement while trying not to hamper festive occasions. It calls on citizens to abide by this and not to obey any other calls for strikes. The Unified National Command also reaffirms that a strike for the martyrs should be a commercial one-day strike only and in the area where the victim is martyred regardless of how many victims are martyred on the same day.

Four, the Unified National Command warns those foolhardy enough to try to use political action to serve family or clan interests, and calls on them to put the higher national interest above all personal considerations.

Five, the Unified National Command warns all those who try to terrorize citizens by the collection of donations on the pretext of financing the uprising as this harms the reputation and prestige of the uprising in the eyes of the masses.

Six, the Unified National Command salutes the Arab liberation front on the anniversary of its upsurge along the road of liberation and victory.

Masses of the gallant uprising: The Unified National Command calls on you to implement the following:

To regard 1 May as a day of solidarity with our gallant workers. Rallies and various activities are to be organized on this occasion.

To regard the first week of May as a week of organizing militant activities against the frenzied building of settlements on our Palestinian soil. Demonstrations should be organized and bands of settlers should be challenged.

To regard 9 May as a total strike day to mark the 42d month of the uprising.

On 3, 12, and 19 May shops should open during day hours.

To regard the second week of May a week of militant and solidarity activity with our prisoners inside the Zionist detention camps by organizing marches and sit-ins in the Red Cross offices in protest against the enemy practices against the Palestinian detainees.

To regard 15 May as a distinguished militant day on the occasion of the anniversary of usurping Palestine.

To regard 18 May as a day to renew the pledge to the PLO and to underline the unity of our people at home and abroad through the raising of Palestinian flags on rooftops.

To regard 20 May as a day of commercial strikes and popular wrath to commemorate the first anniversary of the massacre against our workers at 'Uyun Qarah and to provide transport for the benefit of the educational procession on that date.

Long live the gallant uprising of our people. Long live the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of our people.

Egypt

Further on UK Foreign Minister Hurd's Visit

Meets Mubarak, Views Ties, Gulf

NC0205130291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1210 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] Cairo, 2 May (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd at the presidential headquarters this afternoon.

Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary at the Foreign Ministry and head of the President's Office for Political Affairs; and British Ambassador in Cairo James Adams attended the meeting.

Following the meeting, Hurd expressed pleasure at meeting President Mubarak. He said that his talks with the president were very cordial and constructive and came in the wake of his talks with Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid yesterday. He added that his talks with President Mubarak dealt with some of the problems in the area, the progress made by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, and the hopes that the Egyptian and British Governments are pinning on the continuation of this initiative and on its success. He said that the talks also dealt with Iraq and the Gulf and that he briefed President Mubarak on Britain's constant desire for continuing the dialogue with Egypt at all levels.

Replying to a question on Britain's stand on the regional conference, Hurd said: The proposal to hold a regional conference is part of Baker's initiative. We support it and consider it a good one. We hope that all the concerned parties will participate in it. The EC also intends to participate in it.

Regarding the issue of Palestinian representation and the U.S.- Israeli attempt to find alternatives for the PLO in the peace talks, Hurd said: There are many possibilities. But it is clear that there is a need for the Palestinians to be represented by those who truly represent them. There are many possibilities to organize this, and the door is not closed to these possibilities. Palestinian representation is an important element.

Asked if Britain insists on a European role in the peace conference, Hurd said: We believe that it is correct for Europe to be represented on the basis of its ties with the region. We believe that this will happen, and we could play a useful role.

Replying to another question on whether the implementation of the British proposal to set up zones for the protection of Kurdish refugees in northern Iraq constitutes an actual partition of Iraq, Hurd said that this is not a partitioning of Iraq but a humanitarian project that is proceeding well.

Holds News Conference

NC0205173591 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1500 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] Cairo, 2 May (MENA)—British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd has stressed that his country condemns Israel's policy of building settlements and considers it a major obstacle to the peace process. He called on the Israeli Government to stop building settlements in the occupied territories.

He also said Britain will deal with the question of Egypt's debts at the Paris Club meeting in a positive spirit. He praised Egypt's economic reform efforts.

At the start of a news conference here today, Hurd said that he met this morning with Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, the Yemeni deputy prime minister and foreign minister who is currently visiting Egypt, and with President Husni Mubarak with whom he discussed a number of issues, particularly the U.S. proposals to give impetus to the peace process in the Middle East.

In a brief statement at the start of the news conference, Hurd said that it became clear during his discussion with President Mubarak of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's initiative that their two countries support this initiative and agree that it still faces some difficulties. He added that it is important that Egypt, Britain, and all other forces support Baker so that he can continue his efforts to overcome the existing obstacles.

He said that the discussions also dealt with the situation in Iraq, which, as everyone agrees, has no hope of being able to rejoin the international fold under its current regime. He added: There are a number of humanitarian problems in Iraq which the United Nations and the allies are now addressing. There are continuing political problems there, and the Security Council is discussing whether the sanctions against it should be maintained.

Hurd expressed his belief that it is important for pressure to continue to be applied on Iraq through these sanctions.

Douglas Hurd said that the talks also dealt with issues of security in the Gulf region and the Damascus Declaration. Bilateral relations were also discussed and the continuous progress in this area, particularly in the past three years, was noted.

Hurd concluded his statement by saying that he would travel to Jordan today and later go on to Saudi Arabia.

Replying to a question on the current situation in Iraq, Hurd said: We respect Iraq's sovereignty. The efforts under way now are humanitarian in nature. We will not allow any change in borders or any interference in Iraq's internal affairs or in who rules Iraq. He added that supervision of the Kurdish refugee camps will be entrusted to the United Nations, noting that he had discussed this issue with Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan and that Britain's UN envoy had discussed it with the

secretary general. He said that the United States is currently taking measures to continue the protection operations and to provide security for the Kurdish refugees in the north and the Shiites in the south.

Asked about the role the EC can play to give impetus to the peace process in the Middle East, Hurd said that when the EC ministers met with James Baker in Luxembourg last week, they reached general agreement on supporting the U.S. initiatives so as to remove all possible obstacles. He expressed his belief that the EC could play a role in the proposed regional conference. He said: According to the Baker initiative and in view of the close ties between the countries of the region and the EC, the latter can help in the peace process.

Answering a question on the Palestinian issue and the possibility of adopting resolutions similar to those taken on the Gulf crisis, he said that the problems are different and require different solutions. He added: As far as the Palestinian issue is concerned, what is needed is an agreement that addresses Israel's security concerns and ending its occupation of Arab territory. He added: We believe that the conditions of the people in the occupied territories should be improved while this agreement is being discussed.

On the UN security forces' assumption of responsibility for protecting the Kurds and the extent of the guarantees needed to ensure a permanent solution, the British foreign secretary said he hopes British Prime Minister John Major's proposals are adopted. These proposals underline the need for the Kurds to be protected by a UN-sponsored international police force and for this operation to continue until the Kurds can return to their homes amid guarantees that they will not have to leave again.

On Israel's policy of building settlements and whether this represents an obstacle to peace, Hurd stressed that this policy does indeed pose an obstacle to the peace process and described it as "wrong and unjust." He added that Britain agrees with the United States and the Arabs and speaks with the same voice. We all hold the same views on the issue of building settlements and believe this policy must be halted.

Replying to another question on what is expected from the current efforts to find a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian problem and whether Israel will be given an ultimatum to force it to comply with international legitimacy in the Middle East should it reject the peace efforts, Hurd said: There is general agreement on the regional conference, and this is something that never happened before. Everyone must play a role if a peaceful solution is to be achieved, especially Israel, the Palestinian leadership, and many Arab countries. He stressed that the Arabs must now concentrate on the steps Baker is taking to reach a solution.

Asked whether the present initiative is sufficient to coordinate among all stands, the British foreign secretary replied that this is not yet clear. He expressed his conviction that Britain and Egypt support the continuation of efforts to reach a solution.

He said there is an agreement to start talks between Israel and the Palestinians. He noted that some obstacles remain, but there are differences of views within Israel itself over the substance of these obstacles and over Israel's policy in the coming stage. He said that Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 were of a different nature from those issued in connection with the Gulf crisis. The Security Council resolutions on the Palestinian issue call for negotiations among the parties and for addressing both the Palestinian people's demands and Israel's security concerns and right to exist. This has been the situation since 1967.

Asked about the positions of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait on the question of participation in a regional conference, Hurd said that he does not know whether Saudi Arabia and Kuwait seek to play an active role in the conference. He added that he will discuss this matter in the countries he will be visiting.

Asked about similarities between Saddam Husayn and Yitzhaq Shamir and the UN stand toward them, Hurd said that Saddam's position differs from that of Shamir but added that each of them violates justice and threatens the security of the region. He added that the Security Council dealt with the two different problems in different ways. While the Security Council resolutions on the Gulf crisis called for complete and unconditional withdrawal, the Security Council, in its resolutions on the Palestinian issue, called for negotiations that take into consideration Israel's security and the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

Hurd said that Britain and France each has its own views on the solution of the Palestinian problem. The EC currently supports the U.S. efforts.

Rebukes Israel on Settlements

LD0205205891 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 2030 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] Britain told Israel today that building settlements in the occupied territories is an obstacle to a Middle East peace settlement and should be stopped. Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd delivered the rebuke less than a week before his junior minister Douglas Hogg visits Israel and the territories. Mr. Hurd, on a tour of the region, claimed Israel's occupation is "poisoning the Middle East, REUTER reported. "The continued Israeli occupation, the lack of a settlement, the lack of justice for the Palestinians, is a poison that is a cause of instability in the Middle East," he told reporters after meeting Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri.

Mr. Hurd said earlier he would send junior minister Douglas Hogg to Israel to stress British support for U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's peace efforts. Mr. Hogg, who will be in Israel from May 6-9, is due to see Israeli Foreign Minister David Levi and other ministers, as well

as, according to the Foreign Office, "prominent Palestinians". Mr. Hurd, in Cairo at the end of the first stage of his tour taking him to Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia, was asked at a news conference if the Israeli policy of more settlements was an obstacle to Mr. Baker's initiative. "Even if there was no such thing as the Baker initiative the illegal planting of settlements in the occupied territories is wrong," he said. "It is unjust and those who favour such a policy are creating a substantial obstacle to peace. Therefore we in Britain, we in the European Community, we with our American allies, we with our allied friends raise with one voice the same comment on these settlements in the occupied territories. We apply the same persuasions to reasonable Israelis that this policy should be halted."

The Foreign Office refused to acknowledge that the "prominent Palestinians" who will meet Mr. Hogg have links with the Palestinian Liberation Organization. Britain has imposed a ban on meetings between ministers and PLO representatives, because of the group's support for Saddam Husayn during the Gulf war. Tory MP Michael Latham, vice president of the Tory Friends of Israel, said: "Everyone knows that the prominent Palestinians in the occupied territories have links with the PLO. There is nothing improper in such a meeting. These are internal Palestinian leaders in Israel, as distinct from the Yasir 'Arafat leadership in Tunis." An official at the PLO's London office said: "It has not been decided who will meet Mr. Hogg. Of course the PLO is consulted about such meetings."

Mr. Hurd, due to met King Husayn in the royal palace today, said he did not believe that the PLO could be excluded from all preliminary peace talks with the Israelis "because it continues to attract a good deal of support in the occupied territories". Britain also saw a proposed joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to peace discussions as "interesting and worth exploring", agencies reported. The foreign secretary told reporters in Jordan: "The Egyptian stance, the Jordanian stance, some elements of the PLO all suggest to me there is a willingness on the Arab side to make progress. Not in essentials, not in principles, but to make some changes in their own positions. More than at any time in the last 10 years we now have a United States administration which is seriously working at some risk to itself for a just settlement to this problem—this has not always been so in the past, it is so now." Mr. Hurd said that Britain's idea of an Arab-Israeli settlement could only be based on United Nations Security Council resolutions which also affirm Israel's right to secure borders.

Concludes Visit, Departs

NC0205145491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1335 GMT 2 May 91

[Excerpt] Cairo, 2 May (MENA)—British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd left Cairo for Jordan this afternoon following a one-day visit to Egypt during which he was received by President Husni Mubarak. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister on Yemeni, UK Official Visits

NC0205145691 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1320 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] Cairo, 2 May (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has said that President Husni Mubarak's meeting today with Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, Yemeni deputy prime minister and foreign minister, was fruitful, beneficial, and fraternal and that Egyptian-Yemeni relations are strong.

He added that it is natural for differences of views to emerge from time to time. Such differences do not spoil an atmosphere of cordiality, and Yemen understands this just as we do. He said: We are proud of our relations with fraternal Yemen, particularly our ties with Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, who is a brother and a dear friend. His visit came at the right time.

On Douglas Hurd's visit to Egypt, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid that Britain is eager to give impetus to the peace process. There is coordination between the EC and the United States, and we support this coordination. We are also eager for Europe to participate in the peace conference. The United Kingdom's role stems from its permanent membership in the Security Council and its influence with the countries of the region. He added that President Mubarak's meeting with Hurd was very useful and important.

Statement Decries Secessionist 'Trends' in Somalia

NC0205132491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1145 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] Cairo, 2 May (MENA)—Egypt [words indistinct] in Somalia. In a statement issued by the Presidential Office, Egypt appealed to [words indistinct] and the importance of bringing about national reconciliation and preserving Somalia's sovereignty.

Following is the text of the statement.

The Arab Republic of Egypt is following with deep interest the current developments in Somali territories. It stresses its full condemnation of any secessionist trends and at the same time denounces the attempts made by some countries to encourage these trends.

While appealing to all parties to recognize the need for and importance of achieving national reconciliation and preserving Somalia's sovereignty and territorial integrity, Egypt stresses at the same time that it will confront decisively any scheme aiming to split Somalia's unity.

Libya

U.S. Report on Terrorism 'Lacks Credibility'

LD0105155691 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1450 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] Tripoli, 1 May—An official at the People's Committee of the Foreign Liaison Bureau has said the report

on terrorism issued by the U.S. State Department completely lacks credibility and objectivity, as did previous reports. The source said that the references to Libya in the report are without foundation and are mere repetition of allegations that the great Jamahiriyah has refuted and proven to be false.

The source added that this report is characterized by prejudice particularly if its contents on the Arab countries are compared with the repressive and brutal practices of the Zionist enemy against the Palestinian Arab people in the occupied Arab territories.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Afghan Islamic Party Head

LD3020192991 Tripoli JANA in English 1453 GMT 2 May 91

[All punctuation as received]

[Text] Tripoli, 2 Al Ma'a. [2 May] JAMAHIRIYA NEWS AGENCY—The chief of the Afghan Islamic Party and the accompanying delegation paid a visit to the residence of the leader of the revolution where they witnessed the traces of the foiled American NATO barbaric aggression over great Jamahiriya on the night of At Tayr 15-1986 [15 April 1986].

Through the visit, the delegation was escorted by the secretary of the Universal Society for Islamic Dawa who provided, to the Afghani delegation, elaborate explanations regarding the aggression and the brave confrontation by the Libyan Arab people.

At the end of the visit the Afghan Islamic Party chief Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, inscribed a word in the visitors book saying.

I witnessed the traces of the savage bombardment of the residence of Muslim revolutionary leader. The American policy is not based on any human or moral principle. This reveals to us that America, in order to achieve its colonialist goals, resorts to political distortion, terrorism, physical liquidation and acts through all dirty means.

America wishes to install weak mean agents, and followers over Islamic countries so that is could realize its plots and strategies.

It fears the emergence of Islamic leaderships capable of sowing the Islamic nation and leading it out of American colonial domination. The Islamic nation will take its own course, despite all that. God willing'.

Engineer Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, the chief of Afghan Islamic Party and the minister of foreign affairs in the provisional Afghan Government of Mujahidin, arrived in Tripoli Tuesday evening, heading a delegation on a visit to great Jamahiriya.

He made a statement to JAMAHIRIYA NEWS AGENCY saying. I pay this visit to sisterly Libya to discuss the current situation of the Islamic world, particularly in the wake of Gulf war which is a massive shock to the Islamic nation as it benefited the enemies only.

Eng. Hikmatyar praised the efforts undertaken by the revolutionary leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi for the support of Islamic and Muslims issues all around the globe.

Editor Views Algeria's Hamrouche's Unity Idea

LD2904085291 Tripoli JANA in English 0007 GMT 29 Apr 91

[Text] Algiers, Al Tayr [Apr] 29, JAMAHIRIYA NEWS AGENCY—The prime minister of Algeria Mouloud Hamrouche asserted Algeria's readiness to establish total unity with the Arab Maghreb countries and requested for that the drawing of borders and respect of the independence of each state.

In a discourse with the residents of the city of Constantine and broadcast by the Algerian T.V on Friday night, Hamrouche called for total Arab unity saying that it was a national popular demand. He criticized the Arab governments which use a demagogic policy towards the Arab unity demand.

JANA's Arab affairs editor commented on the statement of Hamrouche. He said Great Jamahiriya, which calls for Arab unity and opened its territory to all Arabs, removed the border posts and frontiers set up by colonialism to separate the Arab people welcomes the implementation of the [proposal of the] prime minister of sisterly Algeria for the establishment of total Arab unity.

The editor added: What called for the attention of the observers in Hamrouche's statement is that they could not understand the call for total Arab unity called for by Hamrouche but laid down the condition drawing the borders and the independence of each state. [as received] The editor added: We hope that Hamrouche will be able to remove this contradiction.

Morocco

Iraq's 'Aziz Arrives With Saddam Message

JN2904183791 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 29 Apr 91

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz arrived in Rabat today carrying a letter from His Excellency President Saddam Husayn to the Moroccan monarch King Hassan II on the latest developments in the Gulf region.

Tariq 'Aziz, who arrived from Mauritania, had visited Jordan, Libya, and Tunisia respectively. He is scheduled to visit Algeria after his Morocco visit.

Meets With King Hassan

JN2504210091 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] Moroccan Monarch King Hassan II today received Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz, who arrived in Rabat this afternoon as part of a tour of a number of Arab states.

The meeting was attended by Abdellatif Filali, Moroccan foreign affairs minister; and Ahmad Rida Guedira, adviser to the king.

AFP quoted an Iraqi diplomatic source in Rabat as saying that Tariq 'Aziz is carrying a message from His Excellency President Saddam Husayn to the Moroccan monarch on the latest developments of the situation in the Gulf region.

Tariq 'Aziz had already visited Jordan, Libya, Tunisia, and Mauritania. He is also scheduled to visit Algeria.

Prime Minister Receives Iraqi Envoy, Message

LD2604090191 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. Azzedine Laraki this afternoon received the ambassador of the Republic of Iraq in Rabat, Fadil Muhammad 'Abd al-Ghafur Shahir, who conveyed a message from Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi, the prime minister of the Republic of Iraq.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Receives Letter on Iraqi Situation

EA2804123591 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 27 Apr 91

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council and the Council of Ministers, has received a letter from Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi, the Iraqi premier, concerning the internal situation in Iraq after the cease-fire and the internal incidents which occurred in some northern and southern Iraqi cities. A responsible source at the Council of Ministers stated that the letter came within the framework of deliberations and consultations between Sudan and Iraq.

New Consultative Council Members Listed

EA2804095991 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1022 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] Khartoum, 25 Apr (SUNA)—Staff Brigadier Pio Yukwan Deng, Revolution Command Council member and chairman of the Political Committee, has issued a decree adding Adam Siddiq Muhammad Siddiq, Zayn al-Din Hasan Zayn al-Din Muhammad Ali, and Wasilah Hasan Manwafli to the membership of the Consultative Council.

Tunisia

Education Minister Reports Campus Violence

LD0305003891 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 2 May 91

[Statement by Mohamed Charfi, minister of higher education and scientific research, on 2 May; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] First of all, I would like to remind you that studies were, in general, good in the last few weeks in higher and secondary institutes; and during the last few days in particular, we did not record any strike action or disturbances, despite the distribution of leaflets in many secondary and higher institutes calling for chaos and strikes. The students did not comply with them. This is natural, because these leaflets contained known slogans of the (?Ennahda) movement, with which neither students nor pupils agree.

At the end of the year, particularly, all the students and pupils are ready for their exams, and it is known in the whole world that it is impossible for students to be driven in disturbance movements at the end of the year. It is as if the groups have despaired and have tried this time to impose—which was fiercer than what we have seen up to now—violent disturbances on the institutes.

A week ago, security noticed unusual activity in a dormitory, so it checked the identity of the students living in the dormitory and it became clear that they were ready, (preparing) for the following day or week for aggression against a faculty. Chains, a saw, stones, [words indistinct] and other things were seized. As we said, it was a desperate action, and the elements were arrested [words indistinct].

An incident of this kind has taken place, and I say that it was at the level of the republic since early morning. For example, in the eastern region, in five institutes some attempts took place [words indistinct] disguised people came along. One of them tried to burn down a secondary school, and in other places, there were attempts of climbing up walls. The guards challenged them, and everything was all right. In the morning, that is during the school hours, incidents became too numerous in a number of institutes—approximately five secondary schools and 10 higher institutes. Violence was used today by disguised elements many times. Scores of Molotov cocktails were thrown either at vehicles or offices; for example, the car of the director of [words indistinct] which was burned. Another example: the office of the (?teachers) at the technical college; here an attempt to set it on fire took place. An attempt to set the office of university security in Monastir took place.

There were violent acts, very violent acts by a number of students. In fact, they are not students as much as they are agitators who belong to well-known political movements.

In fact, it was an attempt that met swift failure, thanks be to God. This is because the administration, teachers, and workers stood firm, and they showed enough will and (?truth) to enable them to [words indistinct]. Also, the students and pupils did not follow [words indistinct] and they challenged the attackers to the extent that the attackers fled. This is what happened, for example, at the technical college in Ghiriana, the secondary institute in [name indistinct] and the secondary institute in (Chaddah).

This tends to make us optimistic, despite the gravity of the acts we witnessed today. We remain very optimistic. I thank the administration, the teachers, the students, and all who did not participate in the acts of disturbance. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Official on Palestinian, Human Rights Issues

LD0205171791 London KUNA in Arabic 1210 GMT 2 May 91

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 2 May—Shaykh Salim al-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister has affirmed that Kuwait will continue to pursue a consistent policy upholding the political principles laid down by the Emir of the state of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah.

Shaykh Salim was speaking at a reception he held this morning for the ambassadors accredited to Kuwait. [passage omitted]

Shaykh Salim said: "I cannot find words to describe the invasion and the devastation that had befallen Kuwait. But we will never forget the stands of the brothers who stood by us and proved their faith in this fraternity and in the one destiny. [passage omitted]

He pointed out: "As to those who tried to play havoc with Kuwait's security and stability, they will be dealt with by the Kuwaiti people who will never forget those who tried to harm them. We will also not forget the great role played by the world's countries, governments, and people. [passage omitted]

As to the security of the Palestinians, Shaykh Salim al-Sabah said that for a long time, extending decades, they have been living among us with the means of earning their living open to them. About 500 out of the 150,000 Palestinians living in Kuwait have applied for exit visas to spend their holidays with their relatives abroad. Had they been feeling insecure, they would not have applied for exit visas. [as received] As to those who collaborated with the Iraqi occupation, of whatever nationality, they will be referred to a just trial, which will guarantee them the right of self-defense and will be given the right to appoint defense lawyers. All this will take place in accordance with Kuwaiti law, he affirmed. As to Britain's role among the foreign forces in Kuwait, Shaykh Salim al-Sabah said that "there is no doubt that by its presence in Kuwait alongside the other multinational forces, the British Army provides expertise to the Kuwaiti Army. Should the need arise for us to consult the British forces, we will not hestitate to do so."

As to respect for human rights in Kuwait and the allegations and rumors spread by certain people about the participation of some members of the ruling family in events in this regard, Shaykh Salim said: "The British people are aware of what has happened and they know how to distinguish between the rumors that were spread and the facts we possess. I say that no violation of human rights has taken place. But to eliminate any doubt, I have asked my son to leave the country. The information media should not report anything before verifying the facts. This will provide the required credibility." He affirmed that "non-Kuwaitis live in peace among us." [passage omitted]

Minister, Red Cross Official View Detainees

LD0205160191 (Clandestine) Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1500 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] Ghari 'Ubayd al-Sammar, the minister of justice and legal affairs and chairman of the ministerial committee for following up the affairs of prisoners, met today with the International Committee of the Red Cross delegates. They discussed the means to hasten the release of prisoners and detainees who are still being held by the Iraqi authorities.

Minister al-Sammar emphasized that the Kuwaiti Government will do its utmost with the competent international authorities to secure the return of the prisoners and detainees to their families and homeland. To that end, the ministerial committee will carry out a thorough check on the names of prisoners and detainees who are still being held by by the Iraqi authorities with the assistance of the executive body, which has been attached to the committee on the basis of an edict issued by the Council of Ministers.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Orders Military Reinforcement

LD0205170191 Riyadh SPA in English 1213 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] Riyadh, May 2, SPA—Prince Sultan Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz, the second deputy premier, minister of defense, aviation and inspector general has expressed pride over the excellent performance of the armed forces during the recent military operation for the restoration of Kuwait from the Iraqi vicious occupation.

Addressing senior commanders and officers of the armed forces during a reception party here last night, Prince Sultan said custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, supreme commander of the armed forces has ordered that the armed forces technical and human capabilities should be reinforced. Prince Sultan said the sublime orders will be implemented without delay.

Prince Sultan again denounced the Iraqi vicious occupation of Kuwait as a jungle's law and expressed satisfaction over the outcome of the military operations made to restore the legitimacy.

Article Discusses Current Peace Opportunity

PM3004134591 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 24 Apr 91 p 8

['Abdallah Muhammad Bakhaydar article: "War Government and Historic Peace Opportunity"]

[Text] It is known that the present Israeli Government is a war government, which includes among its ranks Likud hawks like Sharon, Levi, Moda'i, religious fanatics and extremist rabbis, and members of the Tehiya and Moledet parties, who are calling for the Palestinians' expulsion from the occupied Arab territories.

That racist government was formed in June 1990 after the collapse of the coalition Likud-Labor government as a result of Shamir's refusal to accept Baker's five points concerning the holding of Palestinian elections and the initiation of a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue, and after Labor Party leader Shim'on Peres' failure to win over the religious parties and to get them to participate in a Labor government that would accept Baker's points.

The new government issued a statement at the time, emphasizing the Jewish people's right to own Israeli territory and settle on any part of it. It also emphasized the need to confront the Palestinian intifadah by all means and methods in order to destroy it and prepare conditions for receiving more Soviet Jews, who had started to arrive in the tens of thousands every month following the Malta summit deal.

These are the aims of the Shamir government which today received the U.S. secretary of state for the third time and on his third tour.

And lest some people forget these aims, Geula Cohen, deputy minister in that government, and Knesset members representing the Tehiya Party emphasized that that government was formed on the basis of refusing to exchange land for peace and on the basis of continuing to build settlements.

Obviously these negative Israeli stances represent an obstacle to the present peace process. The historic opportunity produced by recent developments in the region has, since early March, given an impetus to the U.S. move, whose broad outlines center on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 stipulating the land-for-peace principle and guaranteeing the security and peace of Israel and the region's states, as well as Palestinian rights.

In view of these Israeli stances toward peace, it seems difficult to achieve a just settlement without U.S. pressure on the Israeli Government. In the past, since President Nixon's era, the U.S. Administration has not usually exploited its influence over the Israeli Government in proportion to the military and economic aid with which it showers Israel. The justification for refraining from exercising that natural right lies perhaps in the special relationship between the two countries and the state of harmony and accord between the two states' policies in the cold war era. As a result, there was not much need for any U.S. pressure on Israel.

After the disappearance of the cold war, the decline of Soviet influence in the region, the decline in Israel's strategic importance, and the emergence of the United States as the first superpower in the world; there was a need to bring about a stable situation in the region that would serve U.S. interests—which is a difficult thing to achieve during the Arab-Israeli conflict. This new reality prompts a thorough examination of the responsibilities of both the United States and Israel toward one another to avoid conflicting interests. So, if U.S. interests require the resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict, obviously Israel should respond to these interests if it wants U.S.-Israeli relations to continue and remain strong.

Thus the repeated U.S. announcement that there is no wish to exert any pressure on Israel does not seem to be the final position. This is because events prompt a recourse to exerting pressure. The confining of the U.S. role, as the U.S. secretary says, to bringing views closer and to urging the parties to the conflict to adopt compromise solutions and realize positive changes toward peace is not enough to secure a just settlement—which exposes U.S. peace endeavors to the possibilities of failure.

Failure to achieve tangible progress in Baker's present tour could lead to a reexamination of U.S. strategy toward Israel in accordance with higher U.S. interests, in order to benefit from U.S. influence inside Israel in proportion to the aid and loans provided by Washington and then to secure a popular response that serves U.S. interests and is capable of isolating the extremist forces opposed to peace and realizing stability in the region.

United Arab Emirates

Planeload of Foodstuffs for Refugees Sent

JN0105112191 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] At the instructions of UAE [United Arab Emirates] President His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan and the orders of His Highness Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, minister of state for foreign affairs and head of the Red Cross Society; the fourth relief aid plane left for Iran this morning. The aid is part of the airlift being supervised and organized by the Red Cross Society in the country to aid the Iraqi refugees. The plane, which left for Bakhtaran in Iran, is carrying 20 tonnes of various foodstuffs to be distributed among the Iraqi refugees under the supervision of the Society's delegation. The fifth plane sponsored by the Society will leave tomorrow morning for Bakhtaran with more aid.

Saddam Visits Ba'qubah, Foresees 'Better Times'

JN0205173091 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1605 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] His Excellency leader President Saddam Husayn has said: Men are marked by the positions they take. Those positions are documented and are not lost. His excellency the president added: Better times are coming. All we have to do is brandish our scythes; and I will lead you in this effort. The role of the official is to serve people, watch over them, to prevent the sun from hitting the shade, to expose falsehoods and express the truth.

His excellency the president went on to say: The man of religion is the one who takes a position, the one who has good faith, and the one who demonstrates patriotism. Whenever men of religion express such things, please greet them for me.

His excellency the president said: If there is an approach or a line that could cause problems to our people, we should not pursue it. Whenever we find an approach that serves our people, enhances their faith, and bolsters their unity, we should pursue it with all deliberation. This will be our approach, God willing.

These statements by His Excellency leader President Saddam Husayn were made when his excellency the president visited the city of Ba'qubah, the capital of Diyala Governorate, this morning. There he met at the governorate's premises with Khadr 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Duri, the governor of Diyala, and Comrade Qa'id Husayn al-'Awwadi, secretary of the party's branch in the governorate. His excellency the president also met with governorate officials, notables, and tribal chieftains.

At the outset of the meeting, the governor and the comrade secretary of the party's branch reviewed the excellent stand of our masses in the governorate during the U.S-Zionist-Atlantic aggression against our country and also during the time when the agents and mobs perpetrated subversive, conspiratorial, and treasonous activities in some Iraqi areas. They said that our masses in the Diyala Governorate, along with tribesmen, rose up in arms in defense of great Iraq, its history, its national soil, and its civilization, as well as to vindicate the 17-30 July revolution, its noble principles and values, and its accomplishments.

Our masses expressed their allegiance to the leadership of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn and their determination to continue the jihad behind the banner of his excellency the president. They stood firmly against the remnants, who are failed socially and intellectually backward, to maintain Iraq as a powerful, dear, progressive, and civilized country.

For their part, the tribal chieftains and governorate notables reaffirmed the honorable position of the governorate's sons and their splendid stand against the epidemic driven by the enemies from across the borders to eliminate the ethical values of our people.

The governor explained the measures the governorate has taken to meet the citizens' needs in commodities and services and to implement reconstruction and building plans.

Then, His Excellency President Saddam Husayn appeared on the governorate premises' balcony to salute the masses, who came to the area and crowded around while shouting slogans praising his excellency the president, welcoming him, and expressing their resolve to rebuild what the enemies and rancorous parties destroyed.

Afterward, his excellency the president toured the streets of the city of Ba'qubah and its neighborhoods. The motorcade of his excellency the president made its way with difficulty through the delighted masses.

His excellency the president also called on his eminence Ayatollah 'Abd-al-Karim Al al-Sayyid 'Ali Khan al-Madani, who said that he takes great pride in his excellency the president's visit, beseeched God to grant him long life, and entreated him to break the might of the enemies of the homeland.

Comrade Sat'an al-Yasin, member of the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and secretary of the party's Irbil branch, attended some of the meetings his excellency the president held with the residents of Diyala Governorate.

Further on Remarks in Ba'qubah

JN0205214591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2050 GMT 2 May 91

[Excerpts] Ba'qubah, 2 May (INA)—His Excellency President Saddam Husayn has said that the role of the official is to serve people, watch over them, to prevent the sun from hitting the shade [to provide protection], to identify falsehoods, and to express the truth. [passage omitted]

The president said: Men who take positions keep their word, and all our people are good people. But what happened is that some cards were shuffled. The struggler who worked underground remained a struggler under all circumstances. He who excels under a difficult situation is bound to remain excellent in all circumstances. But had there been a presence in time to repulse the attempt of the evildoers elsewhere similar to the presence you displayed, none of what happened in some governorates would have happened as a result of the acts committed by evildoers, traitors, and their agents, who came from across the borders. Your vigilance and reactions were swift and timely. That is why this governorate was spared evil and desecration. The excellent stand of its residents is conspicously clear. They demonstrated this at the time. The strong relationship and the reaction demonstrated by the men who hold leadership positions, when it is displayed on time, are manifestations of faith. Faith needs to be manifested; it should not remain within the hearts.

What is required in difficult circumstances is to demonstrate a distinguished faith until the evildoers collapse. The faithful gathering always comprises a larger number of people, therefore, it is in need of a leadership. So, if the faithful appeared the way they should, then they would influence, through their faith, a larger number of people and make them take the side of the good gathering. However, if, in certain circumstances, the faithful do not appear to be organized, they will give room to villains who have organized themselves to take the initiative.

I have noticed that some well-intentioned people in the leadership want to work, but they do not know how to work. So, you see them working 12 hours a day without achieving what others achieve in two hours. Therefore, it is a matter of the way people use their resources.

So, in some places, the bodies of the state and the party should be blamed before the citizens because they brought disgrace to these places. Why? Because they were disorganized, meaning that they themselves were not organized to face such a possibility and situation, although they were issued [words indistinct] to face a U.S. landing in cities or near them, how to organize their forces for the confrontation, and how the forces near the area should cooperate with the Popular Army between one governorate and another, one city and another within a governorate, and between the rural areas and the cities. These ideas should have been put into practice in accordance with detailed plans that were actually practiced. Moreover, there should have been the real presence of the (?leaders) of the party in the place [words indistinct] and the bodies of the state, to cooperate at the moment [words indistinct] things in their technical framework. What is this technical framework? There might appear [words indistinct] traitors or those who collaborate with them from behind the borders. However, they are [word indistinct] exactly as we have pointed out that some of the leaders of the faithful gathering—I am talking about official leaders, because there is a difference between an official leader and a leader who seizes an opportunity also within the framework of legitimacy, and who stands out as a leader in actual circumstances—these leaders were not prepared [words indistinct] faith at the decisive moment in harmony with its magnitude and requirements, so the villains defeated the faithful, and what happened happened. This is a summary of what happened.

Diyala is a border governorate, and evil came from Iran. When evil came, you got ready and displayed your faith. We saw how profound faith spread to every village, every guard, and every street. Therefore, you defeated the evil.

The citizens' share of rations in all governorates is available, but requires that people distribute them without leaving time gaps. Affairs in some governorates were normal, but it appears that some officials in other areas could not deliver rations at the right time.

The president said: When I visited Diyala in the past, I used to tell them jokingly that two-thirds of [word indistinct] go to the people of Diyala, that is, two-thirds of the bullets are fired by the people of Diyala. I remember this at a time when the conflict was not between the entire homeland and the entire enemy, but when the [word indistinct] were quarreling among themselves, although we, praised be God, have left this behind us.

The president said: The best posts are those that are occupied at the right time with the approval of the surrounding community. Praised be God, the faithful remained faithful, the chivalrous remained chivalrous, and the good people remained good people. [passage omitted]

The president added: It is necessary for us as Iraqis to start to view the good man as a man very much like us and to view the bad man as a man not like any of us. God willing, we will continue to hold our heads high with pride.

The party officials are your sons. They are of you and you are of them. Had they not been working tirelessly to secure your comfort, you would have asked: Where are the officials? Similarly, you would have asked whether or not officials appear only when circumstances are quiet.

People cooperate with each other. As for officials who take responsibility under quiet circumstances and show that they are capable, but demonstrate a different position under difficult circumstances, they are useless.

Men are led by words, as words are indicative of the positions taken. This is the status of Diyala. And we have to help it.

His excellency the president said: Man's skin is not a container. A man under difficult circumstances should not fear his skin being pierced, because his skin is neither a case nor a container. His excellency the president added: He who cultivates goodness harvests well, and he who serves his people sincerely gains the God's satisfaction. [passage omitted]

Saddam Chairs Armed Forces General Command

JN0205161991 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1610 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] His Excellency President Staff Field Marshal Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, has chaired a meeting of the Armed Forces General Command.

The meeting was attended by Staff General 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council and deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces; Interior Minister 'Ali Hasan al-Majid; and Defense Minister Staff Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan.

Opposition Said To Meet Leadership 'Next Monday'

JN0205182691 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 May 91

[Hasan al-Kashif dispatch from Baghdad]

[Text] The Iraqi Kurdish opposition delegation is expected to return to Baghdad next Monday to begin a second round of talks with the Iraqi leadership.

According to the information available to us, the delegation will be led this time by Mas'ud Barzani, and will carry with it a working paper that was finalized after the return of Jalal Talabani to Iraqi Kurdistan following the initial agreement reached by Talabani and his delegation with the Iraqi leadership. The agreement was disclosed on 24 April, when Iraqi President Saddam Husayn received the Kurdish delegation.

The second round of talks aims at reaching an agreement on autonomy in terms of its geographical borders and powers in light of the March 1970 agreement.

The Iraqi foreign minister considered the initial understanding, or agreement with the Kurdish parties to be one of three basic factors that exposed the U.S.-British-French scheme to interfere in Iraq's affairs on the pretext of the Kurdish refugee issue. The Iraqi foreign minister considered that agreement, in addition to the agreement between Iraq and the United Nations on 18 April and the Iraqi Kurds' refusal to enter camps set up by the armies of these three countries to be three factors that exposed the scheme of these countries that are seeking to turn the Kurds from temporary evacuees into permanent refugees.

President Saddam Husayn ordered today the demolition of his palace located in [name indistinct] in northern Iraq so it could not be used by U.S.-British-French forces, because the palace is located in an area to which these forces have access.

[Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic on 3 May, page one carries the following AFP-datelined report:

["Baghdad, AFP—An official source in Baghdad has announced that President Saddam Husyan yesterday, Thursday, ordered his palace in northern Iraq to be blown up to prevent coalition troops from using it. The presidential palace in Anshki [name as published], in Dahuk Province, was to be blown up yesterday evening to stop the U.S., British, and French troops from entering the building. Dahuk is close to the security zone which the coalition troops have set up in northern Iraq."]

Memo to UN Protests U.S.-Saudi Overflights

JN0205143491 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1405 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] U.S. and Saudi aircraft continue to violate the inviolable Iraqi airspace.

The permanent Iraqi representative to the United Nations submitted a memorandum to the UN secretary general stating that U.S.-Saudi air activity for 29-30 April totaled 82 air sorties, divided among 39 formations. These aircraft flew at altitudes ranging from 3 to 9 kms and at a speed of 720 km per hour.

The permanent Iraqi representative to the United Nations added that the aircraft were identified as F-15's and F-14's. They flew over Baghdad, al-Hashimiyah, al-Kut, al-Ramadi, al-Diwaniyah, Karbala', Samarra', al-Najaf, and southern Karkuk. They were on monitoring and harassment missions, the Iraqi UN delegate concluded.

Memo on 30 Apr-1 May Overflights

JN0205183391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1755 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] New York, 2 May (INA)—U.S. and Saudi aircraft continued to violate the inviolability of Iraqi airspace on 30 April and 1 May. This came in a memorandum submitted by 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari, permanent Iraqi representative to the United Nations, to the UN secretary general. It stated that U.S.-Saudi air activity totaled 34 air sorties, divided among 16 formations, and 2 individual sorties. These aircraft flew at altitudes ranging from 5 to 7 kms and at a speed of 750 km per hour.

The memorandum noted that the enemy aircraft flew over Baghdad, al-Hashimiyah, al-Kut, al-Habbaniyah, Ba'qubah, and al-Najaf. They were on monitoring and harassment missions.

Minister Comments on Reconstruction Priorities

JN0205115891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1050 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] Baghdad, 2 May (INA)—Mr. 'Amir Hammudi al-Sa'di, minister of industry and military industrialization, has said that efforts needed to rebuild civil facilities will be so great that the ministry may not be in a position to reconstruct the facilities of military industrialization.

What adds to this obstacle, said the minister, is the limited resources available.

In an interview published today by AL-QADISIYAH, mouthpiece of the Defense Ministry, the minister refuted claims that large amounts of money were spent on military industrialization; he described these claims as untrue. After the war with Iran, he explained, industrialization concentrated on civil industries, with our investments in the civil sector before 15 January amounting to 75 percent of the total investment in industrialization.

Minister al-Sa'di said the military industrialization facilities suffered extensive damage in the aggression. The leadership made up a priority list concerning reconstruction of the country depending on available resources.

The Industry and Military Industrialization Ministry was asked to exert all possible efforts to participate in the process, and we started reconstructing refineries.

He said the ministry was assigned the task of rebuilding Baghdad's suspension bridge according to its old design and by using the ministry's own resources. Work on 200 meters of the bridge will be under water, and the parts destroyed by the allied forces will be manufactured locally.

The suspension bridge, opened in the early sixties to link al- Karradah al-Sharqiyah and Umm al-'Izam, is supported by a main cable mounted on two concrete stays on the two banks of the Tigris.

The minister of Industry and Military Industrialization said that the al-Jumhuriyah Bridge, which was destroyed by the allies, will be also rebuilt. He said that his ministry is competing with the Ministry of Housing and Reconstruction for rebuilding this bridge so that it may once again link al-Bab al-Sharqi and Karradat Mariam.

The minister revealed several proposals to tackle the unusual problem of price increases in Iraq, such as reducing the price of gasoline, white oil, and gas oil.

He said that industrial installations might be supplied with electrical power during next month. He pointed out that production of dairy products and vegetable oil will be doubled and that the production of cigarettes, dry and liquid batteries, and car tires will soon be resumed.

Mr. 'Amir Hammudi al-Sa'di discussed the wide-scale destruction that the United States and its allies had inflicted on the Iraqi economy's infrastructure, which comprises existing production facilities and those which his ministry was in the process of completing. He said that among the installations whose work has been hampered are the project for producing Oldsmobile sedans, which were expected to be put on the market at the end of this year in agreement with General Motors; the Mercedes trucks; and buses, which were expected to be produced locally next year.

He referred to the suspension of work in the iron and steel production project that was expected to realize self-sufficency for Iraq in terms of metal sheets, sections of all types used in construction and civil works, wires, and all types of rustproof steel, hardened steel, industrial moulds, thermostats [mubadilat hararivah], steam boilers, chemical, petro-chemical, and electronics industries, as well as fiber optics.

UN Asked To Lift Ban on Impounded Goods

JN0205170391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1610 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] New York, 2 May (INA)—Iraq has asked the UN Security Council's boycott committee, formed in accordance with Resolution No. 661, to take the necessary measures to lift the ban on foodstuffs and medicines which Iraq had paid for before 2 August. This came in a letter sent by Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations to Peter Hohenfellner, Austrian ambassador and chairman of the committee.

In his letter, Iraq's representative said that several food shipments had been sent from various sources to Iraq before 2 August, but that these shipments had been impounded in a number of foreign ports in accordance with the resolution imposing the embargo on Iraq.

He noted that paragraph 20 of UN Security Council Resolution No. 687 allows Iraq to import foodstuffs and medical supplies immediately to meet humanitarian needs.

Iraq called on the boycott committee to ask the concerned states to immediately lift the ban on these shipments, which include milk for children, and also to ask financial institutions to lift the freeze on Iraqi funds sent before 2 August 1990 to purchase these foodstuffs and medical supplies.

The list of impounded goods includes 4,543 tonnes of foodstuffs, milk for children, and other food for children in particular worth $18,719,772 on which contracts were signed before 2 August with Swiss, Dutch, Irish, British, French, and New Zealand companies.

The other foodstuffs include sugar, lentils, meat, frozen fish, lamb, eggs, canned meat, and tea worth $64,850,086 from Cuba, Brazil, Britain, Nepal, Ireland, India, Italy, Spain, Uruguay, Austria, and Egypt.

'Aziz on Kurdish Autonomy, Participation in Power

JN0205194791 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 2 May 91

[Report on interview with Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz by unidentified reporter in Baghdad; date not given—recorded]

[Text] Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz said in Baghdad that the plight of the Iraqi Kurds was a national problem that requires a national solution. During an interview, he said that the government was willing to grant Kurds autonomy, but that autonomy does not divide the sovereignty of the state because it is a mere self-rule within the state of Iraq. 'Aziz also said the Kurds were already well-represented in government where they hold key positions.

[Begin recording] ['Aziz] But autonomy is autonomy, as I might say. It is a self-rule within the same state, within the integral state of Iraq. Now, there is in Iraqi Kurdistan a legislative council, which is elected by the inhabitants of the three governorates, and there is an executive branch or body which administrates the local questions, health, education, transportation, agriculture and all these things, tourism, and those matters, those issues which are in the hand, which are within the responsibility of the local authority. The Kurds in Iraq do have a lot of rights, you see. The Kurds can learn their language

in schools. They do now and for a long time. They have, as I said, their legislative council, their executive council, there is a Kurdish television, a Kurdish broadcasting station, newspapers, magazines, books. And the Kurds participate in the life of Iraq as normal citizens. You see, they have the same rights and the same obligations and they have been participating in the central government in Baghdad from the beginning of the establishment of Iraq.

[Reporter] What is the balance of power?

['Aziz] We are not looking at the matter from this angle. They are Iraqis, you see. If we are going to establish the question or to solve the Kurdish question on temporary bases, then it is going to change after two years, three years, five years, which we do not wish. We would like to have something stable based on conviction, based on the feeling of everybody in Iraq that this is a national solution to a national problem. [end recording]

Barzani Responds to Sa'd Salih Jabr's Criticisms

PM0305135391 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 1 May 91 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Barzani Tells Sa'd Salih Jabr: Kurdish People Made Sacrifices Alone"]

[Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—In the first official comment on the negotiations between Kurdish Front leaders and Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, Democratic Party of Kurdistan leader Mas'ud Barzani said in a cable to "Free Iraqi Council" Chairman Sa'd Salih Jabr: Our Kurdish people have struggled, made sacrifices, and offered thousands of martyrs for the sake of the just national rights of our Kurdish people and democracy in Iraq.

Replying to the criticisms aimed against Kurdish leaders for their holding of negotiations with Saddam without agreement with the other Iraqi opposition parties, Barzani said: Our Kurdish people have struggled and made sacrifices alone and without a helper or support, that is, since the Iraqi state was established, for the sake of realizing these sacred aims.

On his position on the agreement in principle with Saddam, Barzani said in his cable "I personally, and also the Kurdish liberation movement, will positively assess and tackle any move designed to realize these aims, and will work for the good of the people and the homeland."

Free Iraqi Council Chairman Sa'd Salih Jabr had a few days ago sent a cable in the council's name to Mas'ud Barzani in which he appealed to him to take the correct position in present circumstances.

Jabr's cable included the following: "We were surprised and shocked, and so were our Iraqi people—Arabs, Kurds, and all national and religious minorities—by the Kurdish Front's holding of negotiations with Saddam's regime. We were more shocked by the picture of the negotiating Kurdish Front delegation and its leader on the screens of world televisions exchanging kisses and embraces with Saddam at a time when the blood of the children, women, and sons of our Kurdish people, and the Iraqi people in general, has not yet dried."

He added: The fact that you personally did not go to Baghdad with the negotiating delegation encouraged us to send this message to you, because it gave us great hopes that you would hasten to reject these negotiations and refuse to sign the agreement expected to be concluded with Saddam and his government.

We are completely confident that you have never forgotten the 8,000 Barzanis who disappeared at the hands of the Saddam regime. We are also confident that you will not forget the women and children of Halabjah and Bahnan [as transliterated] and the 4,000 Kurdish villages that have been annihilated and destroyed.

He said: We would like also on this occasion to emphasize to you that the world as a whole is today extending a hand of support to our Kurdish people in particular and the Iraqi people in general. It supports their just demands in an unprecedented way.

We believe that your position and personal status among the ranks of the Kurdish people and the Iraqi opposition—and also the heritage of your father, the late Mullah Mustafa Barzani—do not allow you to shake hands with that regime.

In light of that, we have a great hope that you will reconsider your agreement in principle on negotiation and refuse to sign in any way any agreement with the regime.

Opposition Attacks 74th Brigade Positions

NC0205151391 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1417 GMT 2 May 91

[Excerpt] As the regime tries to catch its breath, the heroic fighters of our popular revolution continue to inflict blows on the traitor entity.

According to our correspondent, our heroic revolutionaries carried out a number of carefully planned offensives against several positions manned by the 74th Brigade. They attacked the headquarters of the brigade's 1st and 3d Regiments in northern al-Musharrah, as well as the headquarters of one of the brigade's companies in northeastern Iraq.

According to reports, scores of the regime's troops were killed, while others fled. The commander of the 74th Brigade himself was seen fleeing.

These successive attacks inflicted heavy material losses on the regime's forces. A large number of tanks and military vehicles, including a water tanker and a fuel tanker, were seized. [passage omitted]

Bessmertnykh To Meet Palestinian Delegation

TA020517191 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] Contacts continued today in Jerusalem and Moscow to draw up the schedule for Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh's visit to Israel next Friday and the agenda of the talks between the two sides.

Our political affairs correspondent Shlomo Ganor reports that the Soviet Foreign Minister's visit will last a few hours and will be confined to two working meetings with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Foreign Minister David Levi, as well as a meeting with a Palestinian delegation.

Sharon: IDF Need for Territories Outlined

TA260405991 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (LESHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 26 Apr 91 p 2

[Article by Ari'el Sharon: "Depth is the Basis of Security"]

[Text] The statement that in the missile era the importance of strategic depth has been reduced or annulled is a dangerous mistake. The IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] chief of staff must make known his professional view about the value of the territories of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza for the defense of Israel's centers.

Are these territories needed for the defense of the State of Israel and essential to secure its safety and integrity, or are they not? It is time for those in charge of this issue to rise and clearly state their position.

In saying that, I mean that the chief of staff must rise and declare the line at which the IDF would be deployed at the beginning of a war, and at which the IDF will be able to safeguard us against occupation—namely, against an invasion by enemy ground forces of the regions of Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Beersheba, Haifa, the Vallies, the Galilee Panhandle, Qiryat Gat, Ashqelon, and Ashdod. In other words, Israel's centers within the Green Line.

When one assumes that there exists a security problem, it means that it is assumed that war is possible. Defense arrangements could serve the purpose of reducing the danger of war, but they are primarily meant to make sure that if war does break out, the state could protect itself and prevent its territories from being occupied or destroyed. One of the IDF's roles is to deter war, but its primary role is to secure Israel's integrity should war break out. Hence, what is the line the IDF needs to be on to be ready to face the Arab armies when they charge at us?

What is meant by that, is the line where the forces should be deployed for defense and, naturally, the areas behind this line which, the minute war breaks out, must be under the IDF's absolute and undisputed control.

We are not speaking of the question of demilitarization, its character, presence, or value; we must refer only to a situation where any demilitarization—if it existed at all—has been violated and expired.

We cannot continue going around in circles on this central and essential issue.

This question never surfaced before the Labor Party betrayed the Alon Plan and before the appearance of the "flexible" leading Likud figures. It is clear even to the layman that the primary danger to Israel (naturally after the danger of complete annihilation with the use of nonconventional weapons) is not the threat of being hit by the long-range plane of missile fire, but the danger of Israel's territory being physically occupied by the enemy's ground forces. After all, the main bulk of the IDF's power—as well as the lion's share of the defense expenses—is aimed at this purpose: all of the IDF's ground forces, and a large, if not main, part of its aerial power.

That is why everyone accepted as self-evident the fact that the IDF must be stationed along the Jordan River, be in control of the mountain ridge, and naturally, control the main routes from the Coastal Plains to the Jordan Rift Valley.

By saying "everyone" I mean all of the IDF's general staffs, chiefs of staff, all of the defense ministers and prime ministers (not to mention former Foreign Minister Abba Eban who was precise in describing the Green Line as the "Auschwitz boundaries"). We are not discussing mere statements or declarations here, but also, and mainly, operational plans that have been actually prepared and implemented (and still are).

When the chief of staff answers all of these questions—and I have no doubt that his reply would be precise and based only on the factual-operational truth, and on the plans as they are—we will understand just how baseless, absurd (and perhaps frightfully cynical) is the strange claim that territory and strategic depth are of no importance in the "missile era."

There is no doubt in my mind that all of those who—out of ignorance, irresponsibility, or blinding personal ambition, beginning with the Leftists and ending with the "flexible" Likud members—compete with each other in statements of support and loyalty for every U.S.-Arab suggestion or position (often even before it is officially made or clarified), will rush to condemn this demand, claiming it forces the chief of staff and the IDF to become "political."

Naturally, no claim could be more hypocritical and false. The chief of staff is not asked to express a political stand, but to deliver the most essential professional information. Of course, he will have to justify and explain his remarks—on a purely professional basis: combat doctrines, analysis of the grounds and enemy's methods of operation, and so on.

It is not that we are short of authorized professional assessments. We heard General Scowcroft tell us, and

everybody else, just how unimportant depth is—militarily and defense-wise—naturally, for Israel alone. He probably is not familiar with the reasons the United States used and still uses to justify the presence of the majority of its ground forces in Europe—to protect the United States. Also, he probably is not familiar with the traditional claim of every NATO commander, according to which NATO's most serious problem (at least until the recent changes) has always been "the shallowness of the front" [preceding five words in English]—it was "only" 200 to 400 km!

He certainly is not familiar with, or does not want to know the map [with this article] in which the top echelons of the U.S. Army, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, determine the lines and territories essential for the "defense of Tel Aviv" and other essential Israeli territories inside the Green Line. [Accompanying map is identified as "the U.S. General Staff's map for the defense of Israel within the Green Line boundaries." The map shows areas painted in black, defined as "the minimal territory Israel needs for defense purposes." The areas are: the Golan Heights, the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, a triangle-like zone along the border with Egypt, on the Israeli side, the northern end of which connects with the Gaza Strip and the southern part ends halfway along the border. Another part marked is a rectangle-shaped area along the same border, on the Egyptian side, beginning at the Red Sea and going north about one- third the length of the borderline. All of the Jordanian border is also marked by a line.]

To prepare for war in Europe—at least according to the U.S. Army top brass—in the era of modern arms, more depth, or much more depth is needed to attain the same amount of security. Also (at least in a conventional war), in terms of ground, they have stated that the first and gravest threat is the danger of occupation by enemy ground forces. Despite the strange opinion of Scowcroft, the criteria suitable for the United States and Europe apply just as well to the defense of Israel.

The following is a quote from a book by Syrian Defense Minister Mustafa Talas: "The main task in attaining the final victory over the Zionist enemy will be carried by the major striking force of the ground forces—the armored corps."

Ignoring the threat of missiles would be an unprecedented irresponsibility, be it surface-to-surface missiles or missiles launched from distances off ships or planes. Nevertheless, it would be many times more dangerous to ignore the fact that the primary and gravest threat is that of ground forces attacking or even occupying forces.

The IDF is also not hiding its evaluations. For example, they appear in an official publication of the IDF spokesman, dated April 1990, which deals with "the strategic importance of Judaea and Samaria:"

"In the pre-1967 borders, Israel is militarily not defendable... defending this area (the Coastal Plain) against a modern army is almost impossible... the pre-1967 borders do not allow the containment of an enemy breakthrough when it has the initiative... a surprise attack by an armored corps on the pre-1967 borders of Israel could cut the country in half, in less than one hour."

It concludes: "In the final analysis, the only certain guarantee for the security of the residents of Israel is its military presence in Judaea and Samaria" (the publication deals only with Judaea and Samaria).

Only when we know clearly and precisely what is the line which, if it is not in our hands, we would be dooming all of Israel's centers not only to destruction, but also to the worst of all—occupation, will we have the necessary basis to evaluate each peace, or "peace," and to judge the true efficiency of every defense arrangement or guarantee that will be offered.

That is why we are demanding that the IDF present its professional, updated, well explained and justified opinion—and the sooner the better.

IDF Budget Cuts, Personnel Changes Reported

TA0205091991 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 2 May 91 p 1

[Report by defense correspondent Bradley Burston]

[Text] More than one of every seven jobs held by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] career officers and civilian employees will be eliminated under the severe budget cuts planned by Chief of General Staff [CGS] Lieut.-Gen. Ehud Baraq, THE JERUSALEM POST has learned.

The slashes are to be instituted over the next four years and will affect every branch and department of the armed forces.

The IDF last night confirmed the first casualty of the cuts, with a statement on the imminent departure of training branch chief Maj.-Gen. Doron Rubin.

Baraq, shortly after assuming the post of CGS in early April, declared that two general-staff positions would be done away with. The post of adviser for operational evaluation had already been vacated with the retirement of Maj.-Gen. Moshe Bar-Kokhva. But the dissolution of the training branch has stirred controversy among senior officers and reserve generals who regard Rubin highly and are disturbed that he must now leave the army.

"In a conversation between the chief of general staff and the head of the training branch," official military sources stated last night, "it was decided that Maj.-Gen. Doron Rubin will end his active service in the IDF, and begin a retirement leave on May 15."

The operations of dozens of IDF publications were also ordered frozen yesterday pending the completion of cutback decisions.

Meanwhile, military sources disclosed last night that Air Force Brig.-Gen. Eytan Ben-Eliyahu will be installed on Friday as IAF chief of staff. Ben-Eliyahu's installation was postponed on three recent occasions, as IDF officials reviewed the results of an investigation of allegations that he and IAF commander Maj.-Gen. Avihu Bin-Nun had passed confidential information to former IAF equipment branch chief Rami Dotan.

Tehiya Threatens To Quit Coalition

TA0205202791 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] The Tehiya Central Committee this evening decided by a unanimous vote that the movement would quit the government if it reneges on its decision that the regional conference be a one-time event and an opening for direct negotiations. Our party affairs correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that it was also decided that the Palestinian representatives would declare that they do not represent the PLO.

Arens, Shamir Popularity Down; Levi, Sharon Up

TA0305101791 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 3 May 91 p A7

[Text] The popularity of Defense Minister Moshe Arens and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir decreased while that of Foreign Minister David Levi increased in April, according to a nationwide public opinion poll commissioned by MA'ARIV and conducted by the PORI Institute.

The defense minister's popularity went from a 58.9 percent approval rating in March to 47 percent last month.

The prime minister's popularity decreased 4.8 percent, from 42.9 percent in March to 38.1 percent in April.

In contrast, Foreign Minister David Levi's popularity registered a 5.6-percent rise, from 31.7 percent in March to 37.3 percent in April.

The popularity of Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon registered a slight increase of 1.5 percent, from 39.8 percent in March to 41.3 percent in April.

Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i continues to be the least popular top cabinet minister, with only 22.4 percent of those polled expressing satisfaction with his performance in April.

Immigrant Absorption Minister Yitzhaq Peretz is not popular either. Less than 30 percent (29.8 percent) are pleased with his performance.

The poll was conducted on a representative sample of 1,200 women and men over the age of 18 throughout the country who were interviewed individually.

Paper Criticizes U.S. for Treatment of Sharon

TA0305111791 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 3 May 91 pp 1, 20

[Editorial: "Policy by Pique"]

[Text] All credit to opposition leader Shim'on Peres. His sense of dignity and national responsibility prompted him yesterday to delare that an insult to a member of the government of Israel was an insult to the State as a whole, and to him personally as an Israeli citizen. Mr. Peres's outrage was shared by the government. It vigorously protested against the unseemliness of preventing Ari'el Sharon, a minister of an allied government visiting the United States on official business, from paying a courtesy call on his American counterpart, Housing Secretary Jack Kemp.

The insult was engineered by Secretary of State James Baker, whose conduct has been following an all-too-familiar pattern. As the Comte de Buffon put it, the style is the man. This being so, it may well be that, while Mr. Baker has unbounded sympathy for Jews as suppliants—the Bush administration has been helpful in rescuing Ethiopian Jews in recent years and in pressing for the free emigration of Soviet Jews—he obviously has no patience for the stubborn, independent, Jews of Israel. His petulant, contemptuous announcement at a Congressional hearing that, when Prime Minister Shamir is serious about peace he should call the White House, whose telephone number he was generous enough to provide, betrayed the kind of impatience one associates with the treatment of people who do not "know their place."

This was followed by a thoroughly offensive, all-guns-ablaze public attack on Ambassador Zalman Shoval, whose transgression of diplomatic etiquette—discernible only through a microscope—merited at most a private clarification. The rebuke, couched in language not known to have ever been used against a friendly country's representative, was particularly disproportionate when one recalls how U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering would excoriate Israeli policies, in public gatherings and in the presence of the press, in a manner reminiscent of a High Commissioner hectoring natives in a crown colony.

Baker's demand that the Sharon-Kemp meeting be canceled came because, according to State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler, "It would be inappropriate for a cabinet officer to receive a minister who was publicly opposing the president's policies regarding Middle East peace." This is a novel approach for a Secretary of State who considers it an honor to receive and be received by King Fahd, a feudal ruler who has rejected the U.S. administration's initiative, refuses admission to Jewish U.S. senators bearing an Israeli stamp in their passports, yields not an inch on the economic boycott of Israel (a crime in the U.S.) and adamantly refuses to end the state of war with Israel.

Not have Baker and President Bush deemed it a problem to meet Syrian dictator Hafiz al-Asad, still listed by the State Department as a sponsor of terrorism. Baker spent 10 hours with al-Asad last week, vainly trying to persuade him to make one solitary conciliatory gesture. For Baker to meet with Saddam Husayn's ally, King Husayn of Jordan, was obviously also not considered "inappropriate."

Rebuffed by Saudi Arabia and Syria, the U.S. administration seems to be following a course which has become painfully familiar in negotiations between dictatorships and democracies. Dictatorships can blithely reject initiatives without fearing opposition in a rowdy parliament or the fury of a critical press; democracies have to account for lack of progress to an impatient, peace-hungry public. It is tempting to respond to the dictatorship's rejection the easy way: by going back to the democracies' "drawing board" for further concessions. Totalitarian regimes have learned to play this game adroitly—both the Nazis and the Soviets were masters at it—and it often leads democracies to a self-defeating slide down the appeasement slope. But in Baker's attitude there seems to be more than that: it betokens a desperate need to find a scapegoat for failure.

Sharon, the Housing Minister who is in charge of construction in the settlements, is a vocal, decidedly undiplomatic, advocate of its unabated continuation. He seems a perfect target for the administration's wrath; but the ultimate scapegoat is the State of Israel. Baker is much too knowledgeable to believe that halting the perfectly legal construction of houses in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza would bring about Saudi participation in the proposed regional conference, or change Syrian demands for a prior Israeli commitment to withdraw to the 1967 lines. But he is also reluctant, and perhaps unable, to pressure the Arab regimes. It is much easier to blame Israel.

What Baker seems not to understand is that the Israeli government, representing the will of the Israeli people, genuinely wants peace, albeit a peace with security. Whether his lashing out at Israel is a result of personal pique, or of advice from State Department professionals whose record of blunders in assessing the Middle East in the past 20 years has been virtually unblemished, it will achieve little. The outrage in Israel, even from the government's severest critics, at the insult to Mr. Sharon should make him realize how counterproductive these outbursts are. Treating Israeli ministers as though they were puppets in a banana republic is not the way to bring about peace in the Middle East.

Greek Minister Meets Palestinians

TA0305044991 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 3 May 91

[Text] Greece's Foreign Minister Andonios Samaras met yesterday with a large Palestinian delegation in Jerusalem. The Palestinians urged Samaras to support an international conference on the Middle East. They also called on him to meet with PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat to hear his opinions on the peace initiative.

Details about the meeting were given to reporters by one of the Palestinian participants, Radwan Abu-'Ayyash. Samaras cancelled the press conference scheduled for after the meeting and refused to speak with reporters.

Further on Meeting

TA0305073991 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 3 May 91

[Report by territories correspondent Udi Segal]

[Text] Fourteen prominent Palestinians from the territories and East Jerusalem, representing most of the PLO factions, attended yesterday's meeting with the Greek foreign minister at the consulate in Jerusalem. Among the participants was a representative of Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, which as a rule boycotts meetings with Baker.

In a talk with reporters after the meeting, Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, who is identified with Fatah, explained the significance of the Hamas representatives' attendance:

[Begin Abu-'Ayyash recording, in English] It is a meaning that we appreciate the Greek role, since they are a very friendly government and people, and it is also to show that Palestinians are united more and more than before. [sentence as heard] [end recording]

Contrary to this statement, a Hamas leaflet issued last week entitled "From the Sea to the River," urged ignoring all UN resolutions pertaining to Palestine. The controversies among the Palestinians reflect the fact that Hamas and Fatah share no common grounds on peace process issues. According to Abu-'Ayyash, Hamas representatives to the meeting agreed that all the sides have the right to present their stand.

Three issues were discussed at the encounter: the political issue in connection with Baker's peace efforts; everyday life in the territories; the role of Europe, and of Greece in particular. Abu-'Ayyash said that the Palestinians insisted that an international conference with full European participation must be held and demanded that the Greek foreign minister meet with 'Arafat in Athens, or come to Algiers to meet with him.

The meeting participants included Faysal al-Husayni, Ilyas Frayj, and Sa'id Barakat, all of whom emphasized that there can be no peace without the full inclusion of the PLO in the process.

Emergency Aid To Be Sent to Soviet Georgia

TA0305105591 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 3 May 91

[Text] Israel will send emergency aid to Soviet Georgia. This decision was reached a short while ago in a meeting between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Deputy

Transportation Minister Efrayim Gur. The prime minister expressed the condolences of the Israeli people and their participation in the sorrow felt by the Georgian people, dozens of whom were killed and hundreds injured in the recent earthquake in the area.

Deputy Minister Gur told the prime minister that the leaders of the Georgian Republic had expressed their appreciation for the efforts made in Israel to send them emergency aid.

Planes Raid 'Terrorist' Staging Base in Lebanon

TA0205194291 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1930 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] Air Force planes this evening attacked a terrorist target in the al-Rashidiyah area in Lebanon. The target was damaged, and all our aircraft returned safely to their base. The place served as a staging point for attacks in Israel.

Arab Youth Killed in Clash With Army in Hebron

TA0305114391 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 3 May 91

[Text] An Arab youth was killed in a violent incident with IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops, when a group of masked men erected barricades in downtown Hebron. Soldiers called on the youths to halt, then fired at them.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that 'Isam Khatfishah was shot in the head, and his body was found only this morning. After his funeral, a mourning strike was declared in the city. The IDF is looking into the circumstances of the youth's death.

Update on 1 May Territories Incidents

TA0205101691

[Editorial Report] Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 2 May on page A3 carries a report by Yizhar Be'er and Eytan Rabin saying that "yesterday, the security forces captured the person suspected of murdering the French tourist, Ann Ley, in the Andalus restaurant in Bethlehem. The man, Halid al-Saqri, an 18-year-old Bedouin from the tribe of Ta'amra which resides east of Bethlehem, was captured after an extensive manhunt by the Army and other defense forces.

The suspect had worked in the restaurant, and after the killing, hid in Bethlehem. The security forces suspect that he belongs to the local branch of the Islamic Jihad, recently set up in the Ta'amra tribe with the intention of attacking Jews and Christians. Al-Saqri has already admitted to the murder and reconstructed it. He claims that he was operating on his own, that he did not know that the victim was a French tourist, and that he did not plan his act a long time in advance."

The report adds that a 12-year-old resident of Nabulus, who was shot in the head by Army soldiers last Saturday, yesterday died of his wounds in a Ramallah hospital. "Military sources reported yesterday that a 17-year-old Ramallah youth was slightly injured when a group of stone-throwers clashes with soldiers.

"After a two-week delay, the monthly leaflet No. 70 of the Unified National Command of the Uprising [UNCU] was published yesterday.

"It should be noted that in April, 30 Palestinians suspected of collaboration with the authorities have been murdered by Palestinians—which is a record figure in the history of the intifadah." The leaflet calls for only one full strike, on 9 May, the intifadah day. On 20 May there will be only a commercial strike, but studies will not be interrupted. Intifadah activists have recently allowed restaurant owners to be open for business until 1530, and not until 1330 as was the custom so far. The leaflet further says that "in case of an intifadah casualty, no general strike will be staged in the city of the victim, but only a commercial strike in his neighborhood."

Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 2 May, carries a page 11 report by Roni Shaqed, that adds that leaflet No. 70 "sharply condemns the murder in Bethlehem of the French tourist," "stating that the murder was meant to foil the Palestinian national struggle."

The report adds that in clashes with the Army in the territories yesterday, "several casualties were reported in Nabulus. Also, three youths were reportedly injured in the village of Jaba'," "and one was injured in the village of 'Anabta."

"Arab sources also claim that two firebombs were thrown at an Army patrol in Janin yesterday. No casualties or damage were report."

On the same page, David Regev reports that a Khan Yunus resident was murdered by masked men yesterday, and another Gaza Strip resident was seriously injured. Both were suspected of collaboration. He further adds that in riots in Rafah and Khan Yunus, four youths were injured by the Army, which reported "relative quiet."

Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 2 May on page 6 carries a pool report adding: "Ten soldiers were slightly injured yesterday in Khan Yunus. They were attacked while attempting to detain a masked suspect." "Two of the assailants were also injured; one of them was shot in the stomach and suffers serious wounds."

Some 40 youths yesterday staged a march in the Shu'fat refugee camp in Jerusalem. They rioted, threw stones, set fires, and raised PLO flags. A Border Police unit fired tear gas grenades and rubber bullets at them, and detained two suspects. Another youth was injured during a chase after him.

Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0630 GMT on 2 May reports that "in the wake of recurrent riots, a curfew was imposed early this morning on the Shu'fat refugee camp in East Jerusalem."

Budget Deficit Reported at 622 Million Shekels

TA0305114191 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 2 May 91 p C8

[Report by Judy Maltz]

[Text] The government's budget deficit came up to 622 million shekels in April. Local funding through the capital market involved the absorption [sefiga] of 676 million shekels. All in all, the absorption segment of the government's budgetary activity amounted to 54 million shekels.

The Bank of Israel reported yesterday that government shekel deposits in the Bank of Israel remained unchanged at the end of April, standing at approximately 2.2 billion shekels.

Foreign currency reserves in April increased by $87 million, to a total of $6.208 billion at the end of the month. That was due mainly to private sector foreign currency transfers.

In 1990 a surplus of $700 million was noted in the current account of the balance of payments, compared to a $1.1-billion surplus in 1989 and a $700-million deficit in 1988. That was reported by the Central Bureau of Statistics yesterday.

The current account reflects the balance after expenses for imports have been deducted from revenues from exports and unilateral transfers from abroad. The unilateral revenues in last year's balance of payments reached $5.8 billion—an 18-percent increase compared to 1989. Imports of goods and services last year amounted to $23.6 billion (compared to $20.6 billion in 1989), while exports reached $18.5 billion (compared to $16.9 billion in 1989).

In 1990 obligations to foreign bodies amounted to $600 million, after an $81-million drop in 1989. The net foreign investment in Israel last year amounted to $100 million, similar to the scope of investments in 1989.

Drug Seizures, Traffickers' Arrests Reported

TA2704055991

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 22 April reports that "10 drug dealers were arrested in a special operation in the Sharon area early this morning, following the work of an undercover agent. Four suspects are from Kefar Sava, and the rest are from al-Tira and Jaljuliyah. They will be brought before a judge tomorrow." At 0800 GMT, the radio adds that "an inhabitant of Jaljuliyah was shot and lightly wounded by a policeman." The commotion started when police arrived in the village to arrest drug dealers and were immediately surrounded by local inhabitants brandishing knives. "The Police's Sharon District has appointed an officer to look into the circumstances of the event."

Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 22 April, in a page 15 report by Shraga Zeiger and Menahem Horowitz, states that on 20 April, the Negev District Police seized 1 kg of heroin and 3 kg of hashish and detained 'Afu Mu'adi, 40, who is suspected of drug trafficking.

The report adds that the police have arrested "17 suspected drug dealers from Tiberias."

Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0800 GMT on 24 April reports that "the Negev Subdistrict Police yesterday discovered a very large quantity of drugs. The subdistrict's head of intelligence and detectives, Superintendent Shlomo Baumeister, told our correspondent Nisim Qeynan that 19 kg of hashish, 4 kg of heroin, as well as $40,000 and 10,000 new Israeli shekels in cash were seized. The Negev Subdistrict police arrested seven men and one woman in connection with the drug haul."

Soviet Tourist Company Opens Branch in Tel Aviv

TA2604134791 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 26 Apr 91 p A2

[Report by Dan Arkin]

[Text] Intourist, the Soviet national tourist company, yesterday opened its first branch in Israel. Valeriy Petrushenko [name as published], the deputy company director, came to Israel especially for that purpose.

He told MA'ARIV last night that the new branch, on Allenby Street in Tel Aviv, will promote Israeli tourism to the USSR and will help tourists from the Soviet Union in Israel.

He claims Intourist already has agreements with several major Israeli travel companies, including Natour, EWTR, Peltours, Unitours, and the Geographical Society.

The new representation in Israel will be headed by Valeriy Yegorov [name as published].

UK's Hurd Arrives, Makes Statement, Holds Talks

JN0205154691 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd arrived in Amman this afternoon on a two-day visit to Jordan for talks with His Majesty King Husayn, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, and Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri. Mr. Hurd's talks in Amman will focus on regional developments, diplomatic efforts to promote a peaceful settlement to the Palestinian issue, and the Arab-Israeli dispute, in addition to bilateral ties.

Meeting Mr. Hurd at the airport were Mr. Tahir al-Masri, the secretary general of the Foreign Ministry, the heads of the Political Department and Protocol at the Ministry, and the British ambassador in Amman.

Speaking to reporters on arrival, Mr. Hurd said he was happy to be visiting Jordan and meeting with His Majesty King Husayn and Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri. Despite differences between Britain and Jordan over the past year, we have justifiably maintained quite close contacts, Mr. Hurd noted. He hoped the two sides would turn over a new leaf, emphasizing that this is especially important at this particular juncture. Mr. Hurd said the two governments see the need for progress in resolving the Palestinian question and the Arab-Israeli dispute. The British foreign secretary said he expects his talks here will focus on this subject. Mr. Hurd had not the least doubt that, as ever, Jordan will continue to play a key role as a principal partner in working out a solution to the problem and searching for a durable, fair solution to the Palestinian question.

The two sides, led by Mr. al-Masri and Mr. Hurd, held a round of talks at the Foreign Ministry this afternoon, exchanging views on regional developments and efforts to promote a peaceful solution to the Palestinian question and the Arab-Israeli dispute. They also considered ways to advance relations between the two friendly countries.

Further on Talks With Al-Masri

JN0205205391 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 2 May 91

[Excerpts] The Jordanian and British sides led by Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri and Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd held a round of talks at the Foreign Ministry this afternoon. [passage omitted]

The foreign minister explained Jordan's stance on the peace efforts calling for an effective peace conference and broad involvement by the major powers and the United Nations predicated on international legitimacy and UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. The minister emphasized the need for the European participation in the peace conference and that such a parley should have effective powers. Al-Masri stressed the need for halting Israeli settlement activity in the occupied land the for invoking the fourth Geneva Convention on the status of the Palestinians in these territories.

The two sides explored avenues for consolidating bilateral ties, both stressing a mutual desire to boost them, and broadening the scope of British and European economic aid to Jordan to help it through hardships. [passage omitted]

Hurd Meets With King Husayn

JN0205203791 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received British Foreign Secretary Mr. Douglas Hurd at al-Nadwah Palace this evening. They exchanged views on current efforts and the ideas being floated to find a solution to the Arab-Israeli dispute and the Palestinian question and to promote peace in the Middle East.

Mr. Hurd emphasized that Jordan has a central role to play in the peace process, saying that his country supports these efforts based on principles Jordan considers to be basic to the peace process. They also talked about relations between the two countries.

The meeting was attended by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the prime minister, the chief of the Royal Court, his majesty's political adviser, His Highness Prince Talal Bin-Muhammad, military adviser to his majesty the king, the foreign minister, and the British ambassador in Amman.

Comments on Mideast Peace, Kurds

JN0205200391 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 2 May 91

[News conference by British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd in Amman on 2 May, following talks with Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri—recorded]

[Text] [Hurd] Thank you very much for coming. It is good to be in Amman today again. I've already had good talks with the foreign minister and look forward to seeing his majesty the king and the prime minister this evening. Obviously during this last year since August we've had differences of opinion, differences of analysis, differences of policy with the Jordanian Government about what happened in Kuwait and in Iraq. But all the time we've been keen to maintain contacts with the Jordanian Government, partly because of our friendship and partly because we thought this was going to be useful for both sides. And the Jordanian Government has had the same feeling, so we have remained in close contact. Personally I have remained in very close contact. And we've been able, therefore, despite the differences in opinion to keep up this relationship. And I am sure that is now proving useful. Now we want to move forward into the new chapter. And of course one element, one part of that new chapter is the Palestinian question, Arab-Israel, where we fully support Mr. Jim Baker's efforts. I found when I was in Cairo this morning with President Mubarak and

the Egyptians that they fully support this. I believe he's made some progress, quite enough to warrant continued energetic American involvement and activity. Because I don't think there's any substitute for energetic United States activity in solving this problem, and getting a process of peace going. The settlements, the new settlements in occupied territories are an obstacle and they should be criticized as an obstacle to peace. Now, no one is claiming there is a breakthrough. The Americans don't claim that. Neither the Egyptians nor the Jordanians believe there has been a breakthrough. But we do believe that there is sufficient to justify further effort. [sentence as heard] And I also am quite clear in my own mind that Jordan is a key component of any peace process, that it won't happen without Jordan, that the policies, attitudes of Jordan are very important and we intend that Europe also should be involved.

[Reporter] Well, sir, why did Britain and the United States succeed in monopolizing the United Nations and using force against Iraq, although the Israeli occupation is still there since 1967? Thank you.

[Hurd] Well, the two situations are different. Kuwait was an independent country. She was a member of the UN. She was a member of the Arab League. And she [changes thought], there was an act of aggression committed against her. She was obliterated in one day. It was a very clear-cut situation. The reaction of the UN, the reaction of most of the Arab world, not all, but most of the Arab world was very clear: That this was an aggression which had to be reversed. That has happened. The history of the occupied territories is a different one. It is a history also of injustice. And the continued Israeli occupation, the lack of a settlement, the lack of justice for the Palestinians is a poison, it is a cause of instability in the Middle East. And here too, the UN has taken a stance, not through mandatory resolutions, binding in international law, but through Resolutions 242, 338 which, again, which provide a way forward, which provide a signpost to an answer. And now, not before time, we are making another effort to follow that signpost to reach that answer. It will have to be negotiated, because 242 and 338 require a negotiated reconciliation, the right of Israel to security, and the rights of the Palestinians. So, it is a negotiation which is needed, and a lot of energy and impetus behind it; and that is what we are trying to achieve.

[Reporter] [words indistinct] You say, sir, that Europe wants to be involved; and the Israelis have made it clear they do not want Europe involved. How far are the European countries prepared to push this? And why does Europe want to be involved?

[Hurd] Because I think we could be useful. We believe, we discussed this with Jim Baker, the foreign ministers of the 12 sitting at the table last week, and we believed and he accepted we could play a useful part, because of, we have very close links with the area, and very close links with some of those who will be parties to the negotiation. And we believe that Europe should be there as a full participant.

[Reporter] [words indistinct] the Israelis have already made it clear that they don't want you.

[Hurd] Well, there is a certain, there is one of the question marks over the Israeli attitude when the Israeli foreign minister meets the European foreign ministers on the 14th of May. This will be, obviously one of the main items on the agenda. And we will express to him the view I have just expressed to you.

[Reporter] So, what is really your position on the regional conference, as a European Community and as Britain?

[Hurd] We accept the regional conference. We, our original idea was a rather different one. But, we are so anxious to see progress, to see a peace process, to see this poison drained out of the area that we are prepared to go along with a regional conference with European participation, a regional limited regional [as heard] conference of the kind which Secretary Baker proposed and for which there is quite wide support.

[Reporter] [words indistinct] stop constructing the new settlement. What is Britain or the allies going to do? Are you going to use the same measures that you used against others? Like, the same that you used against Iraq?

[Hurd] The two situations are quite different in law and in reality, as I have tried to explain. But, we certainly will try to mobilize the pressures of persuasion on Israel to show that the settlements, new settlements in the occupied territories are not only illegal. They are a very clear obstacle to the peace process and to the prospects of peace which every Israeli government and every Israeli political party says it believes in. So, they cannot expect to have an unprejudiced hope of a lasting settlement if while this is being attempted, new settlements are being imposed on the occupied territories.

[Reporter] Will you pressure Israel the sort of pressure... [changes thought] Could it be economical? I mean you saw the United States is giving aid, Britain is giving some sort of aid to Israel. Can you do the pressure by...

[Hurd, interrupting] We need to get Israel to the conference table. There is going to be no imposed solution. There is going to be a negotiated settlement if there is going to be any settlement. So that is the main objective. Everything else is secondary to that—bringing about a negotiated settlement, which has to reconcile what Israel wants and is entitled to, and the 242, and what the Palestinians want and are entitled to. That is the aim. The means by which you bring it about, it does involve pressures, it does involve persuasions, and we and the Americans and everybody else, and the Arabs, have to judge what are the effective persuasions to bring about

not an imposed, but a negotiated, settlement, because that is the only settlement which is going to be worth anything.

[Reporter] Another major difference in the Arab views and the Israeli is who represents the Palestinians...

[Hurd, interrupting] That is right.

[Reporter continues] ...and the European in your view, who represents them and who has the right to decide who comes to the negotiating table? Is it the Palestinians who say the PLO, or is it the other parties?

[Hurd] The Palestinians have to work out with others a Palestinian representation, which is representative. It is no good having people who... [changes thought] they sit behind a label saying Palestinian, but who are not representative, but with whom others will also sit down. There is...[changes thought] you put your finger on one of the key procedural questions, and there has been a bit of progress. The concept of having a Jordanian- Palestinian representation is an interesting one. It is not yet agreed by everybody, and it also raises questions, but it is an interesting one. I don't think myself that the PLO can be excluded from all these preliminary discussions because, although they made a big mistake in appearing to condone the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait, nevertheless they continue to attract a good deal of support in the occupied territories. They cannot be ignored, but in the searching for who should speak for the Palestinians, personally I see attractions in the idea of finding somewhere in which there could be a joint Jordanian-Palestinian representation. Whether that can be agreed, I don't know, but it is, I think, interesting, worth exploring.

[Reporter] Mr. Hurd, given Iraq's rejection of the idea, what do you think are the prospects for Britain's proposal for UN police force for the Kurds?

[Hurd] There are now safehavens. Kurds are coming down into the camps and are being fed and are being protected by allied troops. We do not want to keep our troops there in Iraq. It is not a good idea as anything except temporary humanitarian effort. So, we want the UN to take over. Iraq wants the UN to take over. They've said so. But the Kurds, the people in the camps, need not only food and medicine, they want protection. So, how is that to be provided? And it is to that question that we've come forward with one suggestion. I think it is a good suggestion. It is certainly getting quite a wide support. So, we will pursue that. That is for the next stage when the camps are full of refugees and when the allied troops wish to remove themselves and the UN needs to take over. It needs to take over with offering protection, as well as relief, and I hope—and I think there is a reasonable chance—that Iraq will acquiesce in that. She has acquiesced in what has happened so far, which actually has been more difficult for us than what we now propose.

[Reporter] You said in your statement that it is a new chapter and you want to improve the Jordanian-British relations. How are you hoping to improve this? Is Britain going to give Jordan any assistance?

[Hurd] We are giving Jordan assistance through the substantial grants given to the Jordanians by the European Community, which is coming through in the current financial year. I believe that the contacts we have maintained through very difficult times with Jordan have some benefit. Certainly for us, but also for Jordan in her dealings with Europe, and perhaps also with some of her Arab brothers.

Hurd, Al-Masri Make Statements

JN0305123291 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1110 GMT 3 May 91

[Excerpts] British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd left Amman this morning following a two-day visit to the Kingdom. [passage omitted]

Al-Masri and Hurd made statements prior to the British secretary's departure from Amman airport. More details on these statements from our correspondent:

British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd described his talks and meeting with His Majesty King Husayn and senior officials as beneficial and constructive, while expressing pleasure in the visit.

In a predeparture statement to journalists, he said: During the meeting, we reviewed all developments in the region, especially our hopes with regard to the Palestine question, means to encourage the U.S. initiative, and the difficulties facing it, as well as means to develop and enhance relations of friendship between the two countries.

For his part, Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri said Hurd's talks with His Majesty King Husayn in general reviewed all current developments, especially those related to the U.S. efforts to begin the peace process in the region where there was an emphasis on the need to implement international legitimacy. Al-Masri added: His Majesty King Husayn stressed the need to stop Israeli settlements in the occupied territories because they have serious implications that contradict all efforts and resolutions, and confirm the Israeli position about not withdrawing from the occupied territories, especially since withdrawal is the banner and first target of any talks. He explained that the British secretary agrees with Jordan's view on these concepts and interpretations.

Replying to a question about Britain's role and influence on the peace process, the foreign minister said: Britain is close to the United States and has a clear influence on it. Moreover, Britain has influence in the European Community as well as being a permanent UN Security Council member. Therefore, it must have a considerable effect on Israel and on the course and given facts of the issues in the region. It can make a positive contribution to the peace process.

On bilateral relations, al-Masri said: Despite some differences between us, we begin a new chapter in these relations, and we will continue to cooperate with Britain in economic and political areas.

Asked about a change in the British position on the peace process, al-Masri said: The British Government is concerned and active with regard to the peace efforts in the region. It supports the U.S. efforts to resolve the Palestine question and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

On the chances for a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to attend the peace conference, the foreign minister said: Nothing specific on any particular point has been approved yet, and nothing has been decided until now because Baker is still trying to bring views closer on many points. There is nothing tangible so far. He added: If a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation facilitates the peace process, and if the PLO approves and accepts the formation of such a delegation, then it will not be a problem in our opinion.

On whether he is optimistic about progress in the peace process following his meeting with the British foreign secretary, al-Masri said: Yes. No one can say that American efforts have stopped, especially since there are indications that Baker might soon return to the region. This means that the United States will keep on with its efforts. There is hope, but the issue is up to Israel, not us. He said that the U.S. secretary of state does not exaggerate in saying that some progress has been made. I think he is correct in what he says. [passage omitted]

USSR Foreign Minister To Visit 9-10 May

JN0205160691 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1525 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] Amman, 2 May (PETRA)—A JNA correspondent has learned that Soviet Foreign Affairs Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh will visit Jordan 9-10 May as part of a tour that will also take him to a number of the region's states.

During the visit, his first to Jordan since he was appointed foreign minister, the Soviet minister will meet with His Majesty King Husayn and senior officials and will hold talks with Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri.

The Soviet minister's talks with Jordanian officials will focus on regional developments and the intensive political efforts under way to find a peaceful settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine question. The Soviet minister will also discuss with Jordanian officials means of enhancing the friendly bilateral ties.

The visiting minister will be accompanied on the visit by Soviet Foreign Ministry officials.

'Senior' Official on Meeting With PLO Delegates

TA3004130891 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 30 Apr 91 p 1

[Report by Arab affairs correspondent Dan Avidan]

[Excerpt] King Husayn has been invited by President Bush to visit the United States. He will apparently make the visit during May. This was reported yesterday by a senior Jordanian official. According to the official, Bush will discuss with Husayn the progress of the peace process in the Middle East, based on the proposals of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

The official also disclosed that the Jordanian Government is holding high-level contacts with PLO representatives to renew the agreement of understanding, signed in February 1985 between Husayn and 'Arafat, about forming the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation for political negotiations with Israel. The Jordanian official also claimed that the Jordanian Government is considering revoking the decision it had made in 1988 to disengage the Hashemite Kingdom from the West Bank. [passage omitted]

Army Continues Deployment; Roadblocks Established

NC0205180691 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 2 May 91

[Excerpt] The Lebanese Army continued its deployment today in the areas of 'Alayh and upper al-Matn. The 10th Brigade deployed in positions formerly held by the 11th Brigade in al-Jumhur, 'Arayya, Dahr al-Wahsh, al-Wadaya, (?Bdadun), Humal, Bulaybil, Bsus, Suq al-Gharb, and the city of 'Alayh. Roadblocks were set up in the western sector of 'Alayh and in al-Ruwaysat-Sawfar. The 102d Battalion of the 10th Brigade also established a checkpoint on the Bhamdun-Ba'lshmayh road.

In another development, the 11th Brigade expanded its deployment in upper al-Matn and (Jurd 'Alayh). Roadblocks were erected in Sawfar township and along the Ra's al-Matn-Monte Verde road. The 11th Brigade will complete its deployment in upper al-Matn by erecting fixed checkpoints and mobile roadblocks along main and side roads in implementation of the Cabinet decision. The Army will support the internal security forces if necessary.

The 12th Brigade took over positions formerly held by the 11th Brigade in Suq al-Gharb, Qabr Shmun, Shimlan, [placename indistinct], and 'Aramun. [passage omitted]

[Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic at 1615 GMT on 2 May in its report on the progress of the Lebanese Army deployment adds: "Units from the Lebanese Army have been deployed in al-Jiyah harbor. The Progressive Socialist Party removed its roadblock in Batir and Lebanese Army personnel deployed there, only 2 km away from the South Lebanese Army roadblock at the approach to Jazzin on the road from Batir.

["The Lebanese Army also reinforced its presence in Tallat Niha, a strategic position that overlooks Jazzin and al-Shuf.

["Security sources expects further deployment in al-Batrun and al-Kurah on the (Shnata)-Dayr Billa road. The Lebanese Army plans to defuse the mines that were planted on this road, which has been closed since mid-June 1987."]

Syrians Vacate Post

NC0305093291 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 3 May 91

[Text] According to security sources, the Syrian forces vacated their post at al-Madfun point at 0720 today. A Lebanese Army unit took up the position.

In another development today, Israeli warplanes overflew Beirut and the coastal and mountain areas at 1100.

Syria To Remove 15,000 Troops

NC0305100891 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 3 May 91

[Text] Citing a Lebanese official source, Cairo Voice of the Arabs said today that Syria has agreed to pull out some 15,000 troops from Beirut on 21 September. The Lebanese source said that the Syrian forces will move to positions east of the capital as part of a plan to restore calm to the country and enable the state to regain its authority over all of Lebanon.

The source, according to the radio, pointed out that the first phase of the Army deployment plan in the Christian and Druze areas has been completed successfully.

Israeli Attack on Al-Rashidiyah Camp Detailed

NC0205210491 Paris AFP in English 2049 GMT 2 May 91

[Excerpt] Tyre, Lebanon, May 2 (AFP)—Three Palestinians, two children and a woman, were wounded Thursday night in an attack by Israeli helicopters on a Fatah guerrilla base in the al-Rashidiyah refugee camp in southern Lebanon, Fatah said.

According to Fatah, two Cobra helicopters fired eight missiles at the base, which it said had been evacuated several days earlier by members of Force 17, an elite Palestine Liberation Organization unit.

It said that the two Palestinian children and the woman were the only casualties in the 10:00 P.M. (1900 GMT) attack.

Four missiles landed in fields surrounding the al-Rashidiyah camp, located about 90 kilometers (55 miles) south of Beirut and more than 20 kilometers (12 miles) north of the "security zone" set up by Israel in southern Lebanon, Fatah said.

The helicopters were backed up by Israeli patrol boats which fired flares off the coast, Fatah said. [passage omitted]

'Palestinian Naval Base' Targeted

NC0305062091 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0315 GMT 3 May 91

[Text] The target of yesterday's Israeli raid on southern Lebanon was a Palestinian naval base opposite the al-Rashidiyah camp in Tyre. The raid was carried out by three helicopters that fired about 12 missiles which hit the base.

Israeli radio confirmed the raid. Security sources said at least three people were wounded and some homes were damaged in the raid. The sources added that the base is manned by members of the pro-'Arafat group Force-17.

Cabinet To Place 'All Ports' Under State Control

NC0305064891 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 3May 91

[Text] At its meeting yesterday, the cabinet decided to place all ports on the Lebanese coast at the state's disposal effective 15 May.

The Cabinet also asked the minister of state for administrative reform to prepare a draft bill to lift the immunity enjoyed by certain state employees. The cabinet also ratified an urgent draft bill to increase the penalty on price manipulators.

Further Reportage on Hashemi-Rafsanjani Visit

IRNA Reports Communique

LD3004094691 Tehran IRNA in English 0749 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] Damascus, April 30, IRNA—A joint communique was issued Monday night simultaneously in Tehran and Damascus at the end of the 3-day official visit to Syria of Iran's President 'Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

According to the joint communique President Rafsanjani of Iran and President Hafiz al-Asad of Syria discussed in a friendly atmosphere issues of mutual interest and regional and international developments including consequences of the Persian Gulf war, the Palestine and Lebanon issues and the campaign against Zionism.

The two presidents lauded achievements of the Islamic world during the recent decade and pledged full support for Islamic campaign throughout the world.

Both sides stressed that ties among Islamic and Arab countries must be based on the supreme principles of Islam.

They condemned occupation of others' lands by force and interference in domestic affairs of other countries and called for an end to disputes among countries.

Stressing a full-fledged campaign against Zionism and racism, the two sides called for a large-scale cooperation among Islamic and Arab countries in political, security, economic and cultural fields, away from foreign interference.

They also stressed that humanity must be protected against weapons of mass destruction.

Expressing satisfaction with Tehran-Damascus ties, both presidents called for promotion of ties in various economic, cultural and technical fields.

The joint communique emphasized that regional countries must protect the regional security and achieve the sublime ideals of the Islamic and Arab world far from foreign interference and domination-seeking policies.

On adverse effects of the Persian Gulf war on the region and its nations in general and on Iraq and the Iraqi nation in particular, the two sides expressed their sympathy with the Iraqi nation.

Condemning the Iraqi regime's crimes resulting in homelessness of hundreds of thousands of people, the communique described as insufficient the international assistance for the refugees compared with the scope of the catastrophe.

It also deplored efforts aimed at disintegrating the territorial integrity of Iraq and President al-Asad praised Iran's humanitarian assistances to over one million Iraqi refugees.

Both presidents said cooperation between Iran and Arab countries is a major factor in promoting common stands among regional countries, ensuring their interests and preserving their security and independence far from foreign interference.

On the struggle of the Palestinian People against the Zionist regime, the two presidents stressed continuation of joint campaigns to liberate all the occupied territories especially the holy Qods [Jerusalem] and to retain rights of the Palestinian nation.

They also voiced concern over migration of Jews to Palestine and the occupied territories.

Pledging support for the Islamic uprising of the Palestinian people, intifada, the communique urged all Muslim countries to support the uprising and counter Zionist crimes and brutalities.

The presidents emphasized territorial integrity of Lebanon and called for resistance against conspiracies aimed at dividing the country. They praised efforts to end the civil war and to establish peace and tranquility in the country.

The communique described as futile any effort which fails to eliminate the gap between the advanced and the Third World countries and to end domination of industrial countries over resources and economy of the developing nations.

The two presidents expressed satisfaction with the talks and the agreements reached stating that they will have significant impact on strengthening of friendly ties and flourishment of the two countries.

President Rafsanjani invited his Syrian counterpart to visit Tehran which was accepted. The date of the visit will be announced later.

Visit 'Important Turning Point'

JN3004104491 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 30 Apr 91

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "An Important Turning Point," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: Hashemi-Rafsanjani's cordial and official visit over the past three days in response to President Hafiz al-Asad's invitation was characterized by a comprehensive covering of all the issues of interest to both countries and the region, particularly those related to the effects of the Gulf war on their overall situations, Iraq's territorial integrity, the Arab- Israeli conflict, the Palestine question, and the Lebanese situation.

AL-THAWRAH adds: The talks between Presidents al-Asad and Rafsanjani proceeded from a single view of the situation in the region based on their joint rejection of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, its results, and the commitment to firmly pursue this stand.

AL-THAWRAH says: The talks that were held between the two presidents, added new and strong bricks to the edifice of cooperation and brotherliness which has existed between Damascus and Tehran since the victory of the Islamic Revolution. These bricks entrenched the ongoing strategic relations between the two countries. In light of this, we can say that President Hashemi- Rafsanjani's visit to Syria and his talks with President Hafiz al-Asad constituted an important turning point in the march of relations of friendship, cooperation, and brotherliness between the two countries. This visit will have effective and direct results on the overall developments in the region, particularly regarding the Gulf war repercussions, the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Palestine question, and the Lebanese situation.

Joint 'Mission' To Aid Arabs, Muslims

JN3004183491 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] In their news conference yesterday, and in the Joint statement on their talks, the great leaders al-Asad and Hashemi-Rafsanjani confirmed the two countries' identity of views on all hot regional and international issues. Syrian-Iranian relations can be summed up very briefly by saying that they are a serious and objective effort to extricate the region from a series of heavy shocks that wasted immense resources and capabilities, hindered the progress of the Arabs and Muslims for many years, and served the interests of the enemies to the exclusion of all others. These shocks, which were transformed into tragedy and disaster, were caused by the Iraqi regime through its adventurous, reckless policies and its flouting of pan-Arab responsibilities and genuine Arab and Islamic traditions.

The Baghdad rulers pushed the fraternal Iraqi people, Army, and economic resources into irresponsible wars. The unjust war against Iran wiped out huge material and human resources. The Kuwait invasion, which led to the destructive Gulf war, in turn wiped out Kuwaiti and Iraqi resources. Iraq has been transformed from a rich, powerful country, into a poor, weak country, renounced by all. Kuwait's oil wells are burning. The Baghdad rulers have squandered the wealth of the Arabs and Muslims whose causes were the only losers. Policies and stands are evaluated by their results. A look at the conditions in the Gulf and the region is enough to show us the size of the crime committed by the Iraqi rulers.

It is only natural that Arabs and Muslims should take action to tackle the situation, end the tragedy, and lay the foundations for comprehensive progress. Indeed, Syria and Iran have never stopped their good efforts for a single moment and have never succumbed to bitter reality. Al-Asad and President Hashemi-Rafsanjani remained in touch throughout the delicate past period. On every occasion, the two great leaders affirmed firm adherence to the integrity of Iraqi territory and strong opposition to any action that undermines this integrity. Iraq's territorial integrity is sacred and the Iraqi people are a fraternal people who have as much right to be assisted by Arabs and Muslims as they have a duty toward Arabs and Muslims. There can be no hesitation in coming to their assistance and helping them, given the fact that they were forced to wage struggles and wars they never wanted but which their rulers pursued in contravention of all logic and conscience.

Undoubtedly, the firm Syrian-Iranian position is a genuine guarantee for the future of the Iraqi people and territory. It is also a guarantee for the Palestinian people and their unwavering struggle, for the Lebanese people, and for any genuine Arab-Islamic action that can rise to the level of serious challenges.

The Iraqi rulers did great harm to the Palestinian cause and the Palestinian people's revolution. They did great harm to the Lebanese people and their struggle to restore the country's unity, foil the partition plans, and liberate the occupied south. The Zionist enemy leaders employed Saddam's wars to attack the Palestinian people, besiege Syria's pan-Arab positions, expand Jewish immigration, and create a great change in the demographic structure of the occupied Arab territories.

Today, Syria, the sincere Arabs, as well as Iran, which has remained true to its pledged commitment to the Palestinian people, are confronting the Zionist plot, demanding that the international community shoulder its responsibilities by working to implement the international resolutions and stop dealing in double standards. The Syrian moves have hit their target. The international community has no choice but to implement the resolutions regardless of the obstacles and difficulties placed by Israel; otherwise, the international community will lose its credibility as others have lost theirs before.

Undoubtedly, the Syrian-Iranian endeavor to form a broad Arab- Islamic front based on a number of firm principles, such as noninterference in internal affairs; rejection of the logic of force in Arab-Israeli relations; adoption of the language of dialogue, cooperation, and understanding; giving basic problems priority over marginal differences; no foreign hegemony; and preservation of rights; will realize widespread progress in the region and enable its countries to guarantee their own security and face international changes with original stances based on and propounding Arab and Islamic traditions and foiling expansionist and domination designs.

This is the mission of Damascus and Tehran, and it also is the mission of all sincere Arabs and Muslims.

Al-Asad Briefs NPF on Discussions With Baker

JN2504203891 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] The Central Command of the National Progressive Front held a meeting chaired by President Hafiz al-Asad at 1945 today. The president briefed the Central

Command on the current contacts and discussions on the launching of a just and comprehensive peace process in the region, including the discussions held between the president and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. The Central Command decided to resume its meetings later.

Israelis Attempting To 'Obstruct' Baker Mission

JN2804103691 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0750 GMT 28 Apr 91

[Text] Damascus, 28 Apr (SANA)—The AL-THAWRAH newspaper has noted the increasing international condemnation of Israel which is feverishly attempting to obstruct peace efforts that aim at establishing a just, comprehensive peace in the Arab region.

In a comment today, the paper says that Israel has rejected the UN role in consolidating the peace process, and rejected withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and ceasing its settlement activity. Moreover, Israel has continued to change the demographic and geographic features in the West Bank, Gaza, the Golan, and southern Lebanon so as to prepare for receiving hundreds of thousands of Jewish immigrants.

The paper adds: Israeli leaders are deliberately trying to cast doubts on settlement efforts that are being pursued by Washington through hinting that the talks under way between them and the Americans are confined to ensuring an opportunity for dialogue between Israel and every Arab party separately.

The paper points out that Israel does not accept an alternative to the Shamir plan and does not approve of UN participation in the talks. This, the paper notes, obstructs international efforts and circumvents James Baker's mission so as to undermine and thwart it.

Concluding its comment, the paper calls for serious, firm action in order to force Israel to implement UN resolutions, similar to the seriousness and firmness the world has seen in tackling the Gulf crisis, asserting that the UN Security Council permanent members are capable of doing this.

Former PNC Speaker: U.S. Must Push Israel

JN2904104591 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0855 GMT 29 Apr 91

[Text] Damascus, 29 Apr (SANA)—Mr. Khalid al-Fahum, [former] speaker of the Palestine National Council, affirmed in an interview with the newspaper TISHRIN published today that Syria's stand in general, and President al-Asad's stand in particular, is a position that supports and backs the Palestine question.

He added that Syria considers the Palestine cause its first and foremost cause, and is working to find a just, comprehensive solution that guarantees the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people to repatriation, self-determination, and their independent state.

Al-Fahum affirmed that any effort made for the sake of peace must be based on implementing the UN resolutions, especially Resolutions 242 and 338, and that the peace conference should be held with the participation of all parties concerned.

He added that the major problem posing an obstacle to a just peace is Israel, and the efforts of the United States have so far not achieved any progress due to the problems Israel is creating.

He affirmed that the United States should put pressure on Israel if it wants to apply a uniform standard and prove to the world that it is a big and super power that cares about the interest of security and peace in the world.

He described U.S. President George Bush's latest statements on peace in the region as positive. But he wondered: Is the U.S. Administration applying pressure on Israel to realize peace in the region?

He added that the Palestine question is the most difficult question and is the essence of the conflict in the Middle East. There cannot be peace, security, or stability if the Palestine question is not solved in a just manner and according to the UN resolutions.

Al-Fahum reaffirmed the need to realize Palestinian national unity and to stop divisions, especially at this sensitive and difficult juncture following the Gulf war. He expressed his confidence that the blessed intifadah in the occupied Arab territories continues and will go on until the Israeli occupation is removed.

Afghanistan

Kabul Planes Carry Out Bombing Raids on Khowst

BK0205154091 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] In Afghanistan, Kabul regime military aircraft today carried out heavy bombing raids on Khowst City which was liberated by mujahidin about a month ago. Reports say the bombing started this morning and continued till noon. Kabul regime military aircraft carried out at least seven bombing raids on the city and their main targets were mujahidin centers, Khowst Bazaar, and adjoining areas. The bomber planes also heavily strafed another town situated between Gardeyz and Khowst.

Mujahidin Bombs Kill 13 in Kabul

BK0305101091 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 3 May 91 p 12

[Text] Peshawar, May 2—Thirteen persons of the Kabul regime were killed while 20 others injured in three different bomb explosions in Kabul reports AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY.

Details say that Mujahidin planted a bomb in the Communication Ministry of the Kabul regime at Pule Gahe Amoomi which exploded at 5.30 p.m. on April 22.

Another bomb rocked the office of the Director General for Representive Shoora in the colony No.3 of Kabul city on April 27 at 5.00 p.m.

On April 28 another bomb explosion jolted the Military Institute of Kabul at 3.40 p.m. In all 13 persons were killed while 20 others sustained injuries in these explosions.

Meanwhile military sources disclosed that new Soviet Advisers have reached Kabul to steer out the kabul regime from Mujahidin attacks. Besides, the Russians provided 6,000 Tajik militiamen to fight against the Afghan Mujahidin.

Kabul Reports Wakil-Perez de Cuellar Meeting

LD0205183391 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] Abdul Wakil, Afghanistan's minister of foreign affairs, who arrived in New York for a working visit and meetings with a number of UN officials, met yesterday afternoon, 1 May, with His Excellency Javier Perez de Cuellar, the UN secretary general, at the UN Headquarters.

In emphasizing the importance of observing the Geneva accords and guarantees directed to the signatories of these accords—that is, Afghanistan and Pakistan—the minister of foreign affairs at this meeting enumerated an earnest observation of the Geneva accords by the Republic of Afghanistan and he added: Pakistan, from the beginning, has not paid attention to its international commitments, especially vis-a-vis the provisions of the Geneva accords requiring cessation of interference from the territory of this country and providing facilities for the return of Afghan refugees to the homeland. Because of this, Pakistan as usual continues its intervention and aggression against the Republic of Afghanistan. The issue of armed aggression against Khowst Province is clear evidence for this.

In presenting undeniable documents and evidence, including emphasis on change in the strategic position of Pakistani military units in the border regions of Afghanistan since the outset of aggression against Khowst, direct participation by Pakistan in this aggression, as well as the extension of further assistance to the Afghan opposition; utilization of artillery, rocket, tank, and commando forces in the attack on Khowst; participation of Pakistani forces in the looting and destruction of public and private assets, torture, beatings, and massacres of this city's inhabitants; forceful migration of inhabitants to Pakistan; assassination and torture of POW's, as well as illegal, interventionist, and provocative visits by individuals and official authorities of Pakistan to Khowst; and disrespect for the corpses of martyrs, the Afghan minister of foreign affairs also passed detailed information to the UN secretary general on statements made by eyewitnesses, men, and officers of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan, political personalities, delegates in Pakistan's parliament, and the mass media, including the mass media of Pakistan, concerning events in Khowst.

In the course of this meeting, the Foreign Affairs Ministry has asked the UN secretary general that foreign aggression should end against the Republic of Afghanistan through that organization and by using any possible means. The United Nations and other international organizations, in cooperation with Afghani sides, should take urgent and effective measures and steps to return the prisoners and those injured in Khowst fights; and in connection with the treatment of the injured. [sentence as heard]

The foreign affairs minister of the Republic of Afghanistan expressed hopes that the UN secretary general, who himself has taken the initiative on a political solution to the issue of Afghanistan, should complete it. He was asked that in order to give further impetus to this process, he should visit the region and contact the involved sides.

The foreign minister said such an action would certainly pave the way for achievement of inter-Afghani understanding.

In return, His Excellency Javier Perez de Cuellar said he is personally concerned about the continuation of war and bloodshed in Afghanistan, especially in connection with the Khowst incident. Therefore, as his responsibility in this regard, he considers it his duty to not spare any efforts to seek a political and peaceful solution to the issue of Afghanistan. The UN secretary general, in his

meeting with the foreign minister of Afghanistan, promised the Afghan foreign minister to give more impetus to his efforts in this direction and to use all means in this regard. He also added that he will commission his special envoy, His Excellency Benon Sevan, to intensify his diplomatic efforts in the region and report his findings to him.

Direct Talks Held With Russian Province

LD0205211691 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] Diploma Engineer Mir 'Abdul Ghafur Rahim, minister of water and electricity, met in his office this morning the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic delegation from Altay Province headed by S. Stepanovich, vice chairman of the executive committee of that province, who came to Kabul to hold a series of talks on broadening economic and commercial relations and expanding mutually advantageous direct cooperation.

Present at this meeting were the leadership delegation of the Ministry of Water and Electricity; the head of the foreign relations section of the Direct Cooperation Department of the Council of Ministers; and Shevchenko, charge d'affaires of the USSR Embassy in Kabul. Talks were held on broadening relations and cooperation between the Ministry of Water and Electricity and Altay Province in the spheres of electric power, irrigation, digging deep wells and the revival and renovation of irrigation systems in the Republic of Afghanistan.

Bangladesh

Cyclone Deaths Now at 50,000, May Reach 100,000

BK0205042691 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] In Bangladesh, the death toll in Monday's [29 April] cyclone is rising sharply. Reports reaching Dhaka say the toll stands at 50,000 now. The figure is expected to go up further, when contacts are established fully with the affected areas. According to agency reports, the number of deaths may be around 100,000. Reports say that communications remain severely disrupted with large areas under water. Official sources in Dhaka said that 3,000 bodies have so far been recovered, but they admit that this is nowhere near the actual death toll. The Bangladesh ministry of communication fears that 25,000 people may have died in just one district around the port of Chittagong. At least 8,000 in Kutupdia off the coast of Cox's Bazaar, while 70,000 inhabitants of the island are reported to be still missing. Helicopters have been ferrying medicine and other emergency supplies.

The prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, has expressed his distress over the loss of life and widespread devastation in the cyclone. In a message to the Bangladesh prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar conveyed his sympathy to the affected people.

Khaleda Zia Addresses Nation

BK0205180991 Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali 1516 GMT 2 May 91

[Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's address to the nation over radio; place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] Dear countrymen, peace be upon you. With deep grief, I am here before you at this critical moment today. A devastating cyclone hit a large area of the country's coastal region. The cyclone was the most devastating in living memory. We had taken all-out precautionary measures before the cyclone hit. Warning messages were repeatedly announced over radio and television and necessary urgent steps were taken by the local administrations to protect the lives and properties of the people in areas where the cyclone was expected to hit. But the damages due to this cyclone are feared to be greater than all other cyclones in the past. Communications with almost all affected areas were disrupted immediately after the cyclone. Although communications were restored to a large extent during the last two days, they could not be restored fully. Consequently, the information on the death and damages which we have received so far is only incomplete and preliminary. Efforts are in full swing to collect complete data and as soon as we receive it, we will inform you. According to reports received so far, 37,543 people have died. We fear this figure may rise much higher. I pray for the salvation of the souls of those killed.

We have (?no) language to express the intense grief inflicted by this loss of life. How can I console the mother who lost her child, the father who lost his son or daughter, or the child who became an orphan? Come, let us all share this sorrow.

Tomorrow is the holy day of Friday. I call upon all to pray for the salvation of those killed in the cyclone after the prayers at all mosques tomorrow, and also in temples, churches and other places of worship.

I and my colleagues rushed to the affected areas in the first instance. The cyclone hit Kutubdia, Maheshkhali, Hatia, Sandwip, Manpura, (?Char Gazi), (Nikhil) island and other islands. It hit Cox's Bazar, Chittagong, Noakhali, Lakshmipur, Bhola, Patuakhali, Barguna, Pirojpur districts and adjoining areas. We saw that almost all houses were ruined in many places. The saline water did not subside from many areas. Roads, bridges, schools, mosques, and religious schools were vastly damaged. Crops in many areas were completely destroyed. A large number of cattle died. The people in these areas are shelterless, hungry, mournful, helpless, and deprived of everything. I extend my deep sympathy to all my distressed brothers and sisters who are affected (?by the

cyclone). We, all the countrymen, are with you and will remain so. May God enable you overcome this hard test with patience and courage.

At the moment, it is the duty of us all to stand by these distressed people, to help them and to boost their morale. We have to live and start a new life despite the gigantic losses, the intense grief and deep (?apprehension). We have to overcome all sorrows, pains, and obstacles, and then (?succeed). God's blessings are the best means to achieve this goal.

The government has already constituted a high-powered emergency relief committee. It has been given all the powers to deal with the emergency. It is meeting regularly and taking necessary steps. The prime minister's relief fund has also been instituted. I call upon all to donate generously to this relief fund. I have appealed for help to the international community. We have already started receiving a response to this appeal. I can assure that the help received from you and from the international community will be fully utilized for the distressed people and their rehabilitation, and steps will be taken to ensure that this aid properly reaches the distressed people. Relief operations are continuing in full swing in the affected areas. The government has employed all its resources in the relief operation. We will do everything that is possible for us. The elected representatives, the government employees, personnel of local [word indistinct] organizations, and employees of (?nongovernmental) organizations are working relentlessly. Members of Armed Forces are extending wholehearted cooperation in the relief operations. The local administrations are working without any break to provide relief to the distressed people. I would like to advise them to ignore all obstacles and intensify their operations and continue them. You are not only fulfilling your responsibilities, you are serving the distressed humanity. You have set an example of (?sincerity) which enhances our pride to the whole world. You will, God willing, certainly succeed. The entire nation is with you.

Dear countrymen, I need your generous and wholehearted help and cooperation at this difficult time. Differences of opinion exist in a democracy and they will be there. But this is not the time for difference of opinion. Our strength will be bolstered if we can unitedly stand together at this time of crisis. Let us work together and save the distressed people. I am again appealing to the international community to stand by us. May God be with us. May God take care of you. Long live Bangladesh.

Minister Pleads for World Help

BK0305013791 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] Bangladesh urgently needs international help in cash and kind worth 200 crore takas to meet immediate requirements of the cyclone-affected people. Briefing newsmen in Dhaka this evening, State Minister for Relief Lutfur Rahman Khan said Bangladesh also needs another 20 helicopters to ferry relief materials to the affected areas. These may be provided by friendly countries as loan and will be returned later on. The state minister for relief said international help is also needed in the salvage operations for clearing shipping channels near Chittagong port where at least eight ships have been sunk in the cyclone. The port cannot be fully operational if the salvage is not done immediately.

India

Kashmiri Militants Try To 'Sort Out' Differences

BK0205161891 Hong Kong AFP in English 0932 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] Srinagar, India, May 2 (AFP)—Rival Kashmiri militant groups Thursday were trying to sort out differences that have led in the past fortnight to public clashes among their supporters, sources close to the groups said here.

The sources said representatives of the strongest group, the pro-independence Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) held their first meeting Wednesday with the fundamentalist Hizbul mujahidin in an attempt to reach a compromise, and that the talks were continuing.

No details of the negotiations were immediately available.

Both groups, along with half a dozen smaller outlawed organisations are waging an armed guerrilla campaign against Indian rule of Kashmir, the country's only Moslem-majority state, but the JKLF favors independence while the Hizbul is seen as favoring union with neighbouring Pakistan.

India and Pakistan, which controls the northern third of the state, have fought two of their three wars since independence in 1947 over Kashmir.

Meanwhile police reported two pre-dawn bomb explosions Thursday in Srinagar City, urban hub of the militant campaign, one of which damaged a Moslem school but without causing casualties.

One civilian was reported injured in the city's Batmalloo District Thursday during an exchange of fire between an unidentified group of militants and security pickets, police said without identifying the victim.

At least 2,211 people have died in violence in Kashmir since January 1990, most of them in clashes between militants and their supporters and Indian paramilitary troops.

Spokesman: Pakistan Planning Kashmir Kidnappings

BK0205164091 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] An official spokesman said in New Delhi today that the suspicion that the kidnappings in Jammu and Kashmir are motivated and engineered from across the

border has been reinforced by recent reports in the Pakistani press. A Pakistani English daily has carried two interviews with the alleged kidnappers of two Swedish engineers working at the Uri project. The interviews were datelined Muzaffarabad in occupied Kashmir on the line of actual control. The Jammu and Kashmir government has meanwhile expressed the hope that the two Swedes will be released unharmed soon. Several groups, including some militant outfits, have appealed to the kidnappers to release them.

In the Kashmir Valley, firing between rival militant groups and public protests against terrorist activists have been reported from a number of towns for the fourth day. Shops and business establishments remained closed today in Anantnag, Pulwama, and Shupiyan in protest against the activities of the terrorist outfit—Hizbul Mujahidin. In Srinagar, rival groups of militants fired at each other at Chattabul, Batamalu, and some other old city localities, resulting in injuries to three passersby. Two of them later died in hospital.

Goverment Sends Emergency Aid to Bangladesh

BK0205165491 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] The Bangladesh authorities have mounted relief operations on a war footing to provide succor to about 10 million people hit by the cyclone. Reports indicate steadily mounting casualties amid fears that starvation and epidemics may claim more lives. Naval ships and boats search the sea along the eastern coast for victims of the nation's worst cyclone in 20 years. The worst hit was the Sandwip Island in the Bay of Bengal where at least 5,000 people were feared killed, and in the coastal district of Noakhali, nearly 3,500 people perished. Rescue and relief workers said reports of deaths were pouring in from different areas and the toll could surpass 100,000. Army officials have confirmed the death of at least 50,000 people after aerial surveys and reported thousands of villagers have been marooned without food and water.

The Bangladesh Government has appealed to the international community for assistance worth $56 million to provide relief to the victims. It has also asked for 20 helicopters to airdrop emergency supplies to the survivors. The European Community has announced emergency food and medical supplies worth $12 million for the affected people.

India will give 1.5 crore rupees for the victims of the devastating cyclone. Announcing this in New Delhi today, an External Affairs Ministry spokesman said at the request of Bangladesh Government, three helicopters have also been placed at their disposal for relief and rescue work.

President Sends Messages to USSR, Bangladesh

BK0105121091 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] The president has expressed deep grief and sorrow at the human suffering caused by the cyclonic storm in Bangladesh. In a message to the acting president of Bangladesh from Manila, Philippines, Mr. Venkataraman expressed sympathies to the people of that country hit by the tragedy.

In a separate message to the Soviet President, Mr. Gorbachev, he expressed shock over the widespread loss of life and destruction of properties due to the earthquake in Georgia. He offered his sympathies to the victims.

BJP Leader Escapes Unhurt in Attack in Bihar

BK0205160691 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leader, Mr. L.K. Advani, escaped unhurt today when some people pelted stones at a public meeting which he was addressing at Madhepura in Bihar. Mr. Advani later told newspersons in Patna that the incident shows the sense of desperation among some people. The Bihar tourism minister, Mr. Himkesari Yadav, met Mr. Advani and assured him that steps will be taken to prevent such incidents in future.

CPI Objects to Gandhi Statement on Punjab

BK0105130491 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] The Election Commission has again clarified that the poll process already initiated in Punjab and Assam cannot be reversed. The chief election commissioner, Mr. T.N. Seshan, maintained that there is no provision in law which empowers a new government to abandon the poll process midway in the two states. He told newsmen in New Delhi today that only the Election Commission can change the polling dates if it is convinced that fair elections are not possible on scheduled dates.

The CPI [Communist Party of India] has strongly objected to Mr. Rajiv Gandhi's statement that if the Congress-I comes to power, the Punjab poll decision will be reviewed. In a statement in New Delhi today, the party said such statements amount to abrogating powers which do not belong to a party or government. [sentence as heard]. It may have negative impact on the situation in Punjab which is showing signs of improvement, the statement added.

Iran

Reportage on President's Visits to Turkey, Syria

Commentary Views Turkish Visit

NC0205131491 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1700 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Unattributed commentary: "President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's Visit to Turkey"]

[Excerpts] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani of the Islamic Republic of Iran is visiting Turkey at the present time. The visit follows an official invitation President Turgut Ozal extended to Hashemi-Rafsanjani when he visited Tehran on 20 November. The fact that an Iranian president is visiting Turkey for the first time after the Islamic Revolution is regarded as a turning point in relations between the two Islamic and neighboring countries. In view of this, the visit is of particular importance.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit to Syria and Turkey has coincided with the new developments that are taking place for peace and security in the region. This has added to the importance of the visit. In his talks with the Turkish authorities, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani is taking up matters related to the interests of the peoples and to the establishment of lasting security in the region. According to the officials of the two countries, bilateral relations, regional problems, and international developments are being examined between the two sides. [passage omitted]

In view of its Islamic and revolutionary nature, Iran has regarded the question of improving its relations with world countries, particularly with Islamic and neighboring countries, as one of the main principles of its political and economic plans. Turkey has always made an effort to upgrade its trade and economic relations with Iran. The reason for the development of the relations between the two sides is the common culture between Iran and Turkey and the fact that they are Islamic countries, which fully comply with the requirements of neighborly relations.

As far as economic relations are concerned, Iran's foreign trade with Turkey totaled $986 million in 1990. In view of this, Iran can be regarded as the fourth largest trading partner of Turkey.

While economic and technical talks are being held between Iran and Turkey at the present time, the ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization] Ministerial Council is meeting in Tehran to improve the economic and technical cooperation among the ECO members. [passage omitted]

The question of the Iraqi Kurds who have sought refuge in Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran is among the matters being discussed by the Iranian and Turkish leaders. Although the two countries have many economic problems, Iran has received 1 million and Turkey nearly 500,000 Kurdish refugees. However, the international aid extended to the refugees is very limited.

Meanwhile, Iraq's internal problems and the developments that are taking place have had a bearing on the question of security in the region. This matter was discussed during the first round of the talks that were held by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and President Turgut Ozal. The two presidents also discussed the maintenance of Iraq's territorial integrity, the establishment of a democratic system in that country, and the question of the return of the refugees to their homes as quickly as possible.

The existence of a strong potential for the development of the relations between Iran and Turkey and President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit to that country have created a sensitive and important opportunity to improve the security and stability in the region and upgrade the cooperation between Iran and Turkey. Nevertheless, the two countries are expected to take more effective steps to achieve their common objectives and deal with the developments taking place in the region.

President Returns; Visits 'Fruitful'

LD0205194291 Tehran IRNA in English 1747 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] Tehran, May 2, IRNA—President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani returned to Tehran this evening at the end of a 6-day state visit, his first trip abroad as president, which him took to Damascus and Ankara.

At Tehran's Mehrabad Airport, high ranking officials and military commanders received Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani and his entourage.

After reviewing the guard of honour, the president outlined the outcome of his visit to reporters gathered at the airport.

"Very fruitful and satisfactory," were the words the president used to describe his twin visits.

In Syria, he said, "important issues" such as those concerning Iraqi refugees, Iraq, Palestine and Lebanon were discussed.

"With Mr. Hafiz Asad, we shared almost full identity of views on key issues," he said.

Hoj. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said in Ankara, issues relevant to Iraq and its territorial integrity, the Iraqi refugees and security of the region were among the "most important" topics discussed with President Turgut Ozal.

He said talks with Ozal also included cooperation in the fields of oil, gas, transportation, with the two countries reaching some agreements.

"The Turkish people are interested in Islam and we felt ourselves at home," Hashemi-Rafsanjani said.

The president said he returned home "fully satisfied."

Comments on Visits

NC0305083591 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0350 GMT 3 May 91

[Interview with President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani by unidentified correspondent upon his return from visits to Syria and Turkey; date, place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, you went to Syria and Turkey as the head of a high-ranking delegation. Please comment on the outcomes of these visits.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] In the name of God, the almighty, the merciful. Thank God, thanks to Islam, the revolution, the resistance of our people, the holy statements of our late imam, and the effective and sagacious leadership of our esteemed leader, the situation of the revolution outside the country is extremely good. In their contacts with the outside world, those who carry out the revolution see and understand many things which cannot be understood from within. This is what I bring to our dear nation as a gift from my trip.

This trip was almost completely a business trip. We had many things to do even though the visits were in response to visits paid by the presidents of Syria and Turkey and were undertaken at their invitation. We had a tight schedule and were very busy. We held discussions both on regional and world issues, and on inter-Islamic discussions with both countries.

There were several important items on our agenda in Syria. Thank God, everything was done as we and as our people want. The topics that we discussed were Iraq; the Iraqi refugees; regional security; Palestinian problems, which we are concerned about due to overtures in the recent weeks that we are seeing from Israel's mentor, America; and the Lebanese problems on which, again, we had some concerns which we discussed from afar, of course. When we discussed these problems with the Syrian president we saw that our views are almost identical. Whenever we differed on some details, they were differences like to those that one may have with friends over a problem at home. There were not many differences. We are returning with peace of mind from our visit there and we see that our views on these problems kindred.

We agreed to cooperate on all these problems. The joint communique that we issued reflected the realities in both countries and the views of the respective officials.

We met with Lebanon's combatant forces, with the Palestinians, with the Syrian and Lebanese 'ulema, and with combatant personalities from Palestine and Lebanon. We met with almost everyone. They all expressed their gratitude that the Islamic Revolution has preserved its steadfastness, that it supports Islamic movements, and that it instills spirit and strength in Islamic revolutionary movements. The Muslims felt pride in the Islamic Republic's stance in the recent incidents and they expressed their gratitude that Iran's justice-seeking stand on the Persian Gulf crisis and its political support for the Iraqi people enhanced the grandeur of Islam.

We also have [word indistinct] problems with the Syrians which, fortunately, improved. We also seized the opportunity to pay a pilgrimage to the shrines of Zaynab and Ruqayah.

In Turkey we dealt with two kinds of issues: bilateral and regional. There too, we held discussions on the situation in Iraq, Iraq's territorial integrity, the refugee problem, the Kurdish problems, and security. We fully agreed on our coordination and the implementation of plans regarding these topics. Experts will be assigned to follow up these activities.

As for the inter-Islamic activities between the two countries, many things have been pending for some time. Delegations exchanged visits, but they always met a problem. With the interest that Mr. Ozal expressed for cooperation with Iran and with our interest for cooperation with Turkey we both supervised the talks. Each time these talks faced a knot, we untied it. Some hours before our departure, we saw that there were no pending matters to be solved. Everything had been clarified.

We reached an agreement on gas. An agreement was signed on the mode of their use of our gas. Oil transactions that had been suspended for some time were reactivated. An agreement was also reached on the two countries' electricity and on connecting the two countries' electricity so they can use our electricity during their peak hours and we from theirs, since our peak hours are different. There were some points on which the presidents of the two countries had to state their views, which we did.

We solved numerous trade problems. There was a problem regarding transportation and the quota on our trucks in Turkey. This quota was lifted and it was agreed that our trucks would be able to go to Turkey without a permit. This was necessary and useful for both countries. We have almost reached an agreement on a train link with Istanbul. This was one of the things that we wanted. Good agreements were reached on technical cooperation.

Mr. Ozal was very kind to me and accompanied me on all my trips. I was able to visit Turkey's tender and attractive areas. I saw Turkey as truly a developing country.

We met with the Turkish people in some cities. Contrary to what one thinks or hears from afar, the Turkish people—like the Iranians—are interested in Islam and in Muslims. They are good people. In some places we felt as if we were in Iranian cities.

On the whole, it seems that there are grounds for profound cooperation between Iran and Turkey. Turkey is the most developed country in our region. It has many industrial, technical, and commercial capabilities and we can work with them because the Turkish people are truly Muslims. The more we cooperate with the Turks, and any country that uses this [as heard], the more the profits that will be made by the Muslims. I think that they are a very good partner for us.

I thank my colleagues who accompanied me on this trip. They helped me very much with their consultations and views. I am returning fully satisfied. We owe this satisfaction to the selflessness of the martyrs and the sacrifices of the prisoners of war, the families of the martyrs and of those missing in action, as well as to the revolutionary forces of our country. God willing, I hope that God will help us to be good (?wayfarers) in the path of Islam and of the Koran and to carry out our duties toward the Muslim nations throughout the world.

[Correspondent] Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in your discussions you held talks on the presence of U.S. forces in the region. Please tell us what the views of the two countries' presidents were on this.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Turkey has no objection to the U.S. presence in an area of Iraqi territory to safeguard and help the refugees. Of course, we believe that this task should be left to the people of the region and that if they have problems, the task should be handed over to the United Nations. In any case, we agree that the refugees need some kind of support.

[Correspondent] Thank you.

Further Reportage on Iraqi Refugee Situation

5,000 More Kurds Depart

LD0205191491 Tehran IRNA in English 1424 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] Bakhtaran, May 2, IRNA—Some 5,000 more Iraqi Kurdish refugees have returned to their homeland from the western provinces of Bakhtaran and Kurdistan over the last two days.

Of the figure, 3,500 who were settled in camps in Sar Pol-ye Zahab, Javanroud and Paveh, set off for the Iraqi cities of al-Sulaymaniyah, Karkuk, Darbandi Khan, and al-Kalar on Wednesday and Thursday.

From Marivan camp in Kordestan province, 1,500 others, left the Islamic Republic following reports that the U.S. and the West are setting up the so-called "safe havens" in northern Iraq.

Earlier, 15,000 Kurdish refugees had returned to Iraq through the Baneh border point in Kurdistan.

Iran is hosting over a million Iraqi Kurds, who were lucky enough to escape the mass massacres ordered by Saddam Husayn.

West 'Not Focussed' on Tragedy

LD2704174391 Tehran IRNA in English 1529 GMT 27 Apr 91

[Text] Tehran, April 27, IRNA—Although 258 foreign reporters have descended upon Iran to record history's worst human tragedy unfolding in neighbouring Iraq, the reflections in the Western mass media, are not focussed on the catastrophe and references to it are rather vague and contradictory, regretted an Iranian official today.

According to Ali Asghar Faramarzian, director-general for foreign press and mass media at the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, piles of reports have been filed and 475 rolls of films and 380 hours of video tapes sent by the foreign mediamen at the Western borders over the past two weeks, but the reflection of Iraqi refugees' plight abroad has "neither kept pace with the volume of news, pictures and films being made in Iran, nor shows the magnitude of the tragedy."

He said the tragedy of the Iraqi masses has laid bare western pretensions to human rights, raising the question "what unimaginable help rich Kuwaitis received from the U.S. and its allies during the Iraqi occupation, no U.S. humanitarian relief aid is forthcoming for the one million poor refugees fighting for survival."

Faramarzian also charged the U.S. for launching hostile propaganda campaign against the Islamic Republic in a bid to downgrade Iran's "altruistic" help for the "unfortunate Iraqis" and to block foreign assistance from pouring into Iran for those fleeing Saddam Husayn's reign of terror.

Elsewhere, he said that it was the first time Iran was hosting so many reporters to cover a single political event within such a short period of time. "Of the 258 newsmen, 248 are from European countries and America," he added. Faramarzian said the news of refugees was so important that the visas of 144 reporters were renewed and that the crew of a satellite news network was allowed for the first time to enter a sensitive area for live coverage of the refugees' plight. He also stated that there was no impediment to the arrival in Iran of foreign reporters interested in covering the tragedy, and those already here have been provided with all facilities and have access to all refugee camps.

W. Azerbaijan Governor Comments

LD2804121591 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Apr 91

[Text] The means of providing assistance to refugees sheltered in West Azerbaijan camps was discussed and examined yesterday evening in a meeting of officials from assisting provinces' headquarter's. At the meeting, the governor of West Azerbaijan said: At the moment, over 500,000 Iraqi refugees have been given shelter in 11 camps in West Azerbaijan and, despite the fact that most

of their needs including drinking water and health facilities have been met to a large extent, nevertheless, because of the large number of refugees in the camps, many problems still exist, and resolving them will require organized help from the assisting provinces of Gilan, Mazandaran, Kerman and East Azerbaijan.

The government of West Azerbaijan announced at the meeting: At the moment, Iraqi refugee camps in this province need medical facilities, powdered milk, medical teams, food, and transport equipment.

Western Intervention 'Bound To Fail'

LD2804044991 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 27 Apr 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] According to dispatches, various regions of southern Iraq continue to present scenes of clashes between the dissident forces and the Republican Guard. According to Iraqi refugees who have fled southern regions of that country in recent days, the UNITED PRESS reported: The Republican Guards have massacred thousands of people in Karbala'. There are numerous reports of further clashes between the residents of southern Iraqi cities and government troops. But, in the opinion of political observers, sources in the West are trying mostly to focus on reports concerning north Iraq and the state of the homeless Kurds.

While attending to the catastrophic conditions of the Iraqi Kurds is something logical and essential, there are evident efforts to delete from Western media reports stories about the pitiable conditions of the population in south Iraq. This move is taking place mostly on account of the nonaffiliation of the opposition forces in southern Iraq with Western governments.

Following the termination of the oil war in the Persian Gulf, the U.S.-led Western countries have been trying to exploit the situation in the region to their own hegemonistic interests while the fate of the hundreds of thousands of those people who are being ruthlessly massacred in Iraq (?is of least significance to those states). To the extent that attending to the situation of the Iraqi refugees and dissidents is in (?consonance) with the Western states' interest, they endeavor to overplay in their media humanitarian measures towards aiding the Iraqi people. But, the West shows no reaction whatsoever over the merciless killing of those people who do not have the required coordination with it in the political sphere and act independently, avoiding any sort of affiliation with foreign troops.

Most of the (?militants) in southern Iraq believe that the Western governments have turned the lives of hundreds of thousands of human beings into a political scapegoat, trying to greatly exploit the internal situation of Iraq through their propaganda campaign. This same policy is being followed even in offering relief aid to the immigrant Kurds. This means that the relief aid supplied to the Kurdish refugees in Turkey, despite the fact that they number just one-third of the Kurdish immigrants in Iran, exceeds the assistance provided to the latter.

At present, the popular struggle against the Ba'thist regime in Iraq is continuing, and intervention by the foreign forces, as well as the propaganda being waged by world arrogance in order to distort the popular nature of the struggle, are bound to fail. Undoubtedly, the [word indistinct] people of Iraq, while acting independently without any foreign involvement and while making use of their own resources, will take control of their destiny and determine their political future.

250,000 Refugees Receive Medical Care

LD2904130891 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Apr 91

[Excerpt] The managing director of the Bakhtaran regional health care organization said: Currently, 10 hospitals in Bakhtaran, two hospitals in Paveh and Eslamabad-e, and six health clinics in Sar-e Pol-e Zahab, Gilan-e Gharb, Qasr-e Shirin, Paveh, and Javanrud, are responsible for the treatment and health care of the Iraqi oppressed sisters and brothers. Furthermore, 13 doctors and 120 medics, along with 60 ambulances, have been despatched to the Iraqi refugee camps. He added: So far, 246,624 sick refugees housed in the camps have been treated. A further 2,247 were admitted to hospitals or clinics and 1,092 persons have undergone surgery. [passage omitted]

Autonomy Proposal Seen as Ploy

LD2904195291 Tehran IRNA in English 1513 GMT 29 Apr 91

[Text] Sanandaj (Kurdestan), April 29, IRNA—Iraqi Kurdish refugees here are skeptical of the agreement supposed to have been reached between the leader of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), Jalal Talabani, and the man who massacred them and drove them out of their ancestral lands, Saddam Husayn.

"We do not want to return home unless there is an international backing behind the agreement for self-rule," was the opinion of most of the refugees in this western border province. Several others told IRNA that the proposition by the "detested Ba'thist clique" to grant autonomy to the Kurds, "is simply a device" in order to encourage their return home "so that Saddam may decimate us at the earliest opportunity". They pointed out that the Ba'thist regime lacks any "credibility and legitimacy" and "has earned notoriety for its breach of accords whether internal or international."

Even the leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, Massud Barzani, has expressed his doubts over the accord worked out in Baghdad as well as the idea of "safe havens", and has made it clear that his peshmergas will continue the fight against the regime.

"Iraqis will feel safe only when Saddam meets his deserved fate and no longer pollutes the earth," said a Kurdish refugee, drawing attention to the fact, that the Ba'thists despite their pretensions to Arab nationalism, have never hesitated to decimate the "equally oppressed Arabs of southern Iraq". Last March Saddam slaughtered hundreds of thousands of Iraqi Arabs, and turned a million others into homeless refugees, of whom 800,000 have fled to the marshlands of southern Iraq, while some 100,000 have sought safety in Iran.

Iran is also playing host to a million plus Iraqi Kurds, and in the absence of any worthwhile international relief aid, is spending over 10 million dollars on the hapless refugees. The Iraqis, both Kurds and Arabs, appreciate Iran's help to them and express hope that they will be allowed to remain on Iranian soil until the situation improves in Iraq and necessary safety conditions prevail for their eventual return home.

Refugees Dissatisfied With Food Aid

LD3004110291 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] The Iraqi refugees, housed in the camps of Kamiaran region, said today: The foodstuffs donated by the Western countries for the Iraqi refugees are not only unfit for human consumption, but their consume by dates are over as well. These refugees complained about the dispatch of such items as dried fodder, moldy biscuits, canned pellets prepared from barley pulps, and shoes and clothing made for the polar regions. They said: Some of the foodstuffs donated by the international organizations can be used for animals only.

The same report indicates that a major part of the aid dispatched by the Western states for the refugees is a canned product made from barley pulp, and the deadline for its safe consumption is 1986. The stuff has fermented over time and has become flammable.

Nuri Says 1 Million Refugees in Iran

LD0205211991 Tehran IRNA in English 1548 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] Bakhtaran, May 2, IRNA—Interior Minister Hojjat Ol-Eslam Abdollah Nuri said here Thursday that one million Iraqi refugees were still in Iran despite the return of some of them to their homeland.

Nuri, here to inspect the refugee camps and see to their problems, expressed hope that all Iraqis could get back to Iraq once their problems were solved.

According to the latest reports, 40,000 Iraqi Kurdish refugees have so far left Piranshah, northwestern Iran, and 25,000 others got back home from Paveh in Kordestan Province.

Some 7,500 refugees have reportedly crossed into Iraq via the southern crossing of Shalamcheh.

Concerned about their unknown future and having no trust in Saddam Husayn's promises, the refugees who left Iran took with themselves as many necessities and foodstuff as they could.

All refugees willing to go back home are free to take with them whatever they had brought into Iran.

Visits Refugee Camps, Comments

NC0305101391 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 3 May 91

[Text] Iraqi refugee camps in Paveh and Uramanat were inspected by Interior Minister Mr. Nuri and his accompanying delegation. The interior minister talked with the Iraqi Kurdish refugees and studied the nutrition, housing, and health problems at the camps. The Iraqi refugees extended their gratitude to the Islamic Republic of Iran for its unsparing assistance to them.

Mr. Nuri said during this visit: Despite the fact that all of the government's resources have been used and despite the flood of the people's assistance, the Iraqi refugees are still facing housing, health, and nutrition problems.

Speaking at the Bakhtaran administrative council session, the interior minister also stated that a list of rotten foodstuffs and second-rate products sent by some countries and international organizations to the refugees is being prepared. He pointed out that foreign countries have whipped up a great deal of propaganda commotion but have extended extremely minimal assistance to the refugees in Iran. Mr. Nuri also said that despite its problems, Bakhtaran Province has taken extensive steps to help the Iraqi refugees.

The official in charge of health services in Camp Number One in Nasrabad of Qasr-e Shirin also stated that the tuna fish sent by foreign organizations and countries to the Iraqi refugees was rotten and not fit for consumption and was destroyed.

Reportage on Iranian Refugees' Repatriation

1,000 Return Home From Iraq

LD2704194291 Tehran IRNA in English 1757 GMT 27 Apr 91

[Text] Tehran, April 27, IRNA—Of the Iranian nationals residing in Iraq who had fled to the Kuwaiti borders to escape the recent bloodbaths ordered by Saddam Husayn, 1,000 have been airlifted to Iran over the past two days.

More Iranians currently stranded at the Safwan and 'Abd 'Ali refugee camps in northern Kuwait, are to be brought back home by air in the coming days. The Iranians were living in Iraq for several decades engaged in various occupations including theological centres in an Najaf and al Karabilah.

In the wake of general massacres ordered by Saddam to quell the mass uprising against his unpopular rule, thousands of Iranian and Egyptian nationals joined Iraqi citizens fleeing southern Iraqi towns for the safety of areas controlled by American and Kuwaiti troops.

Ba'thist troops reportedly slaughtered half a million Iraqi Arabs last March, and have forced over 800,000 others to seek refuge in the inhospitable marshes of southern Iraq.

Some 100,000 other Iraqi Arabs crossed into Iran in addition to the million-plus Iraqi Kurds that have streamed into the Islamic Republic over the past few weeks.

In Safwan, hot weather and lack of hygienic facilities in addition to the air pollution caused by burning oil wells—Saddam's parting kiss to Kuwait—are threathening the lives of refugees, who are totally ignored by international organizations.

A team from Iran's Red Crescent Society is now in Kuwait to coordinate the airlift of Iranians to their home country.

On Friday, 100 Egyptian refugees residing in 'Abd 'Ali camp flew home from Kuwait airport.

Thousands of Iraqi Shi'ite Aarabs, "the unwelcome guests of the Kuwaiti Government," are also stranded in the Safwan and 'Abd 'ali camps.

Kuwait has formally informed the United Nations that it does not want these persecuted Arab people to remain on its soil. It has, however, promised to facilitate their trips to a third country.

In related news, Saudi Arabia has announced its intention to set up a large camp near its borders with Iraq to house Iraqi refugees, but it was not clear whether Riyadh was willing to play hosts to Shi'ite Arabs who form the majority of Iraq's 17 million oppressed population.

Refugees in Kuwaiti Camps Airlifted

LD3004175291 Tehran IRNA in English 1451 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] Tehran, April 30, IRNA—During the past few days 2,150 people of Iranian descent in addition to Iraqis from the southern parts of Iraq were airlifted to Tehran from refugee camps on the Iraq-Kuwait border. The last group of Iraqi refugees were 40 women and children who were transferred from Abdali and Safwan encampments, northern Kuwait, to Tehran Tuesday. At least 16,000 Iraqi Arabs are living in the two encampments, with Kuwait refusing them entry.

The Iranians and the Iraqi Arabs had fled to American controlled areas of Iraq, to escape the bloodbath ordered by Saddam Husayn following his ignominous defeat in the Persian Gulf war. Some 100,000 Iraqi Arabs have crossed over into Iran while an estimated 800,000 others have fled to the vast marshlands of southern Iraq in the wake of Saddam's slaughter of half a million Iraqi Arabs last March. In addition, Iran is hosting a million plus Iraqi Kurds who managed to save themselves from Ba'thist massacres.

Cultural Cooperation Accord Signed With FRG

LD0205101191 Tehran IRNA in English 0928 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] Tehran, May 2, IRNA—Iran and Germany have signed a cultural letter of understanding for cultural cooperation. According to director general of the international relations department of Iran's Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance the two countries have agreed to cooperate in the area of technical education, book exhibition, archeology and protection of cultural heritage, exchange of college students and athletic cooperation.

In an interview with press here Wednesday the Iranian official added that the media of the two countries are to investigate prospects for cooperation in the area of news which they will do by dispatching a group of media writers of Germany. This spring will mark a cultural week of Germany in Iran followed by a cultural week in Germany of Iran this summer.

Commenting on a planned resumption of the operations of the Goethe Language and Cultural Institute in Tehran he said both the institute and Iran's Hafez Institute in Germany are very much likely to open shortly.

He added, however, that the operation of the German institute in Tehran will have to be consistent with the prevalent religious, ethical and cultural principles of Islam.

Further Reportage on Portugese Minister's Visit

Minister Discusses Iraqi Refugees

LD0205184691 Tehran IRNA in English 1634 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] Tehran, May 2, IRNA—First Vice-President Hassan Habibi today reiterated Iran's opposition to any possible partitioning of Iraq.

Habibi in a meeting with visiting Portugese Trade Minister Fernando Manuel Barbosa Faria de Oliviera, called for international contribution to reduce the plight of Iraqi refugees in Iran, and expressed hope that the international community would make efforts to settle the issue, in order to facilitate the return home of the persecuted Iraqis.

De Oliviera informed Habibi of his country's keenness for joint investments in the commericial and industrial sectors, and termed it "a development in the mutual ties."

Habibi in reply welcomed the proposal for bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

Holds 'Fruitful' Talks

LD0205203991 Tehran IRNA in English 1113 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] Tehran, May 1, IRNA—The visiting Portuguese Trade Minister Fernando Manuel Barbosa Faria de Oliveira held second round of talks with his Iranian counterpart 'Abdol Hoseyn Vahaji here Wednesday morning.

Referring to Iran's postwar policy of boosting industrial production, Vahaji welcomed Iran-Portugal cooperation in industrial, commercial and technological fields.

De Oliveira who arrived here Tuesday on a five-day official visit described his talks with Iranian officials so far as very fruitful which he said will help further strengthen Tehran-Lisbon political, cultural, economic ties.

He added that contacts between the representatives of the Portuguese private companies and organizations and the Iranian businessmen and private firms will be beneficial in promoting bilateral relations.

Signs Agreement, Departs

NC0305103291 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 3 May 91

[Text] Mr. Fernando Faria de Oliveira, the Portuguese minister of commerce and tourism, left Tehran this morning after a three-day visit to our country during which he held talks with our officials. He also signed a memorandum of agreement with Minister of Commerce Mr. Vahaji.

Before leaving Tehran, de Oliveria described his visit to Iran as extremely important in the expansion of relations between the two countries.

Pointing to Portugal's upcoming term as EEC president, he said: My visit to Iran will be a step toward the expansion of Iran's relations with the EEC.

Minister of Commerce Mr. Vahaji also stated that the objectives of the Portuguese delegation were to study the grounds for mutual cooperation in the fields of industrial commerce and contracting. He added: Portugal wants to expand its relations with Iran in all fields and this is why it will participate in Tehran's International Fair this year.

Mr. Vahaji said that Iran assesses its relations with Portugal as positive and said: We asked this EEC member to transfer our views to the entire group. This is why Mr. Fernando Faria de Oliveira's visit is of special importance to us.

Hungarian Economic Relations Minister Arrives

LD2704113891 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Apr 91

[Text] The Hungarian minister for international economic relations and head of the Iran-Hungary joint commission, Mr. Bela Kadar, arrived in Tehran this morning heading a high-level delegation to attend the seventh joint session for economic cooperation between the two countries. He was welcomed by Agriculture Minister Mr. Isa Kalantari at Mehrabad Airport.

During an interview with our correspondent, Mr. Kalantari said: This is the first joint session since economic relations of the two countries were based on free trade rather than barter system. He continued: At the session, discussions will take place, and views will be exchanged, on issues concerning the aluminium industry, mining, trade, technical cooperation, agriculture, and oil.

First Round of Cooperation Talks

LD2804132491 Tehran IRNA in English 1240 GMT 28 Apr 91

[Text] Tehran, April 28, IRNA—Hungarian Minister for International Economic Cooperation Bela Kadar and Agriculture Minister 'Isa Kalantari held their first round of [words indistinct] in various industrial and economic fields.

Kalantari said the recent developments in Hungary coupled with Iran's granting of more power to the private sector in the various spheres of the national economy augure well for the expansion of Tehran-Budapest cooperation.

With the transaction system between the two countries shifting from barter to hard currency basis, and their respective chambers of commerce taking on more responsibilities, mutual trade relations are bound to increase in the future, he said.

Kalantari announced Iran's readiness for cooperation in various sectors including transportation, oil and gas, food industry, the joint setting up of an aluminium plant and joint scientific and research projects.

He also said Iran was interested in using the idle capacity of Hungarian oil refineries and exporting its products to a third country.

The export of Iranian crude oil and non-oil commodities to Hungary and purchase of buses, chemical fertilizers and agricultural products such as wheat and corn were among other topics dicussed by the two.

Kadar who arrived here Saturday, said that in the wake of the recent political changes in Eastern Europe, Hungary was planning to base its economic and commercial activities on a "free democratic foundation".

He cited transportation, energy, aluminum industry and agriculture as examples of cooperation between the two countries. He expressed hope that with the signing of a letter of understanding, the two countries could enhance their technical, agricultural and economic cooperation.

Tunisian Embassy in Tehran Reopens

LD2704121391 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Apr 91

[Text] The Tunisian Embassy in Tehran was reopened this morning. According to the Central News Unit, during the ceremony, in which a number of officials from our country's foreign affairs ministry and ambassadors from Arab and Islamic countries accredited in Tehran participated, Tunisian Ambassador Noureddin Hamdan made a speech. He described the reopening of the embassy as a major step in the establishment and expansion of bilateral and international cooperation, in particular with Islamic countries.

The Tunisian Embassy has been closed since 1982.

* New Appointments Announced

91AS0834F Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 17 Mar 91 pp 22

[Text] In a decree by Seyyed Reza Zavareh'i, the director of the national documents and deeds records agency, Mas'ud Amiri was appointed head of records office of Bakhtran, and Seyyed Saleh Fakhri was appointed head of records office of Paveh.

* West Azarbaijan Governor General Named

91AS0834E Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 25 Mar 91 p 6

[Text] Urumiyeh, KEYHAN correspondent

In a decree issued by Hojjat ol-Eslam Nuri, the minister of interior, brother 'Ali Sa'adat was approved as the new governor general of Western Azarbaijan and began his duties.

The new governor general of Western Azarbaijan was born in 1332 [1953/54] and has a college degree in biology.

After graduating from the university, he began his scholarly and cultural activities in the high schools of Salmas as a teacher, and after the victory of the Islamic revolution, he played a significant role in establishing such revolutionary institutions as the committees, the Guards Corps, the literacy movement, Bonyad-e Mostazefin [Foundation of the Oppressed], and the Construction Jihad.

In 1359 [21 March 1980-20 March 1981], as a member of the central council of the Construction Jihad of Western Azarbaijan, he was also executive official of this institution until 1362 [21 March 1983-20 March 1984]. From Shahrivar 1362 [23 August-22 September 1983], he was active in the affairs of the provinces in the Ministry of Construction Jihad. From 1364 [21 March 1985-20 March 1986], he began working as the consultant and official in charge of the war support headquarters of the Governor General's Office. Up to the time he became the governor general of Western Azarbaijan, he was the political deputy of the late 'Ata'i, the governor general of Azarbaijan. He is from Urumiyeh [Reza'iyeh] and from a family of martyrs.

* Law Enforcement Deputies Designated

91AS0834A London KEYHAN in Persian 18 Apr 91 p 1

[Text] The public relations office of the Law Enforcement Force announced 13 new deputies of this Force. Among the 13 Law Enforcement Force deputies are 2 clerics and 4 members of the Guards Corps. The new Law Enforcement Force deputies are:

Coordinating deputy, Second Brig. Gen. Amanollah Mortazavi (former national chief of police)
Acting deputy for plan and budget, Second Brig. Gen. Hashem 'Oruqi
Personnel deputy, Naser Khalilzadeh (of Revolution Committee guards)
Deputy for criminal investigation and findings, Second Brig. Gen. Qanbar Jahantab
Deputy for security, Mohammad Za'eri (of Revolution Committee guards)
Deputy for enforcement, Second Brig. Gen. Mohammad Rikhtehgar
Deputy for fighting social corruption, Hojjat ol-Eslam Elahi
Deputy for training, Qasri (of Revolution Committee guards)
Deputy for information, Fallah (of Revolution Committee guards)
Director general of inspection, Sheykh Qodrat 'Alikhani
Logistical deputy, Second Brig. Gen. Rahimi

In recent weeks, 22 Guards Corps members have received Brig. Gen. Guard Commander ranks. Those whose names we have received are:

Yusof Reza Abolfathi, 'Abd ol-Khaleq Rudbari, 'Abdollah 'Oqabaei (former commander of the Tehran revolution committee), Mahmud Japolqi (former director of operations of the revolution committee), Mohsen Rafiqdust, Vajhollah Aqataqi (former commander of the revolution committee in Sistan and Baluchestan), Reza Seyfollahi, 'Abd ol-Rahman Najafi (commander of the Guards Corps in Mazandaran region), Mohammad Hasan Kusehchi, Mohammad Reza Zahedi (commander of the Imam Hoseyn Army), Mostafa Izadi (commander of the ground forces of the Guards Corps), Karim Nasr-e Esfahani, Gholamreza Ja'fari, 'Abd ol-Mohammad Ra'ufi, 'Ali Shafi'i (former commander of the revolution committee in Yazd), Haj Bahram Nowruzi (former commander of the revolution committee in Ilam), Morteza

Najafi Elmi (former commander of the revolution committee in Esfahan), 'Ali Mohammad Khamseh'i (former commander of the revolution committee of Gilan), Abrari (chief commander of the committees of the Province of Lorestan), Kiyumars Abu (director general of the antinarcotics office), Seyyed Javad Musavi (chief commander of the special revolution committee of Qazvin).

* Military Service Head Named

91AS0834B London KEYHAN in Persian 18 Apr 91 p 1

[Text] Brig. Gen. Mohammad Sohrabi, the commander of the law enforcement force, chose Brig. Gen. Hasan Gudarzi as the head of the General Office of Military Service.

Before the merging of the security forces, the General Office of Military Service was operated under the supervision of the national gendarmerie.

Pakistan

President on Nuclear Weapons, Disarmament

BK0305101391 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 3 May 91 p 12

[Text] Islamabad, May 2—President Ghulam Ishaq Khan reiterated Pakistan's stand on reversing the nuclear arms race and promoting complete disarmament. In a message read out at the first national conference of Pakistan physicians for the prevention of nuclear war, he said that "Pakistan had recently joined the countries which have formally requested for convening of an amendment conference to convert the treaty banning nuclear weapon tests in atmosphere, in outer space and under water into a comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. [quotation marks as published]

The President said: "Pending nuclear disarmament, we are committed to the goal of nuclear non-proliferation and have consistently supported international efforts to check both the vertical and horizental spread of nuclear weapdons. We believe that regional approach to nuclear non-proliferation is the most feasible and effective means to resolve this issue in our own region. In the context of South Asian region, Pakistan has made a number of equitable proposals to India, notably the establishment of a nuclear-weapon free zone in South Asia and a bilateral or original nuclear test ban treaty, to keep our region free of nuclear weapons."

The message said that Pakistan was encouraged by the conclusion of an agreement between Pakistan and India last year for not attacking each other's nuclear installations "as an important step towards building up of confidence and strengthening security in the region." It added that Pakistan was prepared to consider any equitable and nondiscriminatory proposal for keeping South Asia free of nuclear weapons.

President Ghulam Ishaq said Pakistan was encouraged by the INF Treaty between US and USSR. "We hope that this commendable step would be followed by agreement for substantial reductions in the strategic nuclear arsenals of the two superpowers leading ultimately to the total elimination of nuclear weapons."

The President in his message said that Pakistan was a peace-loving country and had been advocating general and complete disarmament.

He congratulated the "Pakistan physicians for the prevention of nuclear war" on marking efforts to educate the people on the disastrous consequences of nuclear war.

Turkey's Ozal Stops Over, Meets Ishaq Khan

BK0305040791 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 3 May 91

[Text] Pakistan and Turkey share a complete agreement of views on important regional and international issues and on ways to deal with them in the interests of peace and cooperation. This was noted during informal talks between President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and his Turkish counterpart Turgut Ozal in Karachi early this morning. The Turkish president made a two-hour stopover in Karachi on his way to Australia.

The leaders of both countries reviewed the post-Gulf war situation and expressed the hope that efforts will be intensified to eliminate the causes of tension from the entire region and to rehabilitate and reconstruct the region.

The latest situation in Afghanistan was also reviewed and it was noted that peace in Afghanistan can be restored only through a political solution that is determined by the Afghan people themselves and is acceptable to them all.

During the talks, the large-scale human rights violations in Indian-occupied Kashmir and the deteriorating situation there were also considered.

President Turgut Ozal thanked Pakistan on behalf of Turkey for sending relief materials for the Iraqi refugees in Turkey.

Both leaders expressed satisfaction at the existing brotherly ties between the two countries and emphasized the need to further increase economic cooperation. They expressed confidence that new areas of cooperation will be identified that will benefit both countries.

Earlier, President Ghulam Ishaq Khan welcomed President Turgat Ozal at the airport on his arrival in Karachi. The Turkish president has now left for Singapore on his way to Australia.

Paper Comments on Oakley's Remarks on Kashmir

BK0105105991 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 1 May 91 p 6

[Editorial: "Oakley's Optimism fails to Amuse"]

[Text] The Ambassador of the United States, "Viceroy" Robert Oakley, has expressed "concern" over violation of human rights in Occupied Kashmir and, quite properly, advised the governments of Pakistan and India to resolve the problem through dialogue. Mr. Oakley has only recently been to India. His concern, voluntarily expressed, would seem to suggest that he confirms as a matter of direct personal knowledge the fact of abuse of human rights in Occupied Kashmir. Who would he point the accusing finger at? A fair answer to that question would most probably be that Mr Oakley is holding the powers that be in Occupied Kashmir responsible for the violation of human rights. In this particular case, those guilty of violation of human rights would clearly be the Indian authorities in New Delhi because, as it happens, Occupied Kashmir is under the direct rule of the government of India. Now, as far as we are aware, the government of President George Bush has a clearly laid down policy in respect of governments seen as responsible for violation of human rights. A significant—and worthy—part of this policy is to cut off or, at least significantly reduce, all forms of US help. The government in Washington also looks for ways of persuading erring states so that they be obliged to observe the relevant disciplines. Mr. Oakley has chosen not to touch upon this aspect of the issue. One should naturally wish to know why.

There is absolutely no doubt that, as the accredited representative of the government of the United States, Ambassador Oakley is perfectly in order when he suggests moves to promote "mutual dialogue" between Pakistan and India. His impression that the people of Pakistan would like to see mutual cooperation provide a base for stability is correct, if not awfully fresh. It is good to hear that the people and the government on the other side also entertain similarly sensible views. All this adds up to a pretty heart-warming scenario. But is it?

If all this is quite as sweet as it sounds then we should be on the verge of a major breakthrough. Sadly, that does not seem to be exactly the case. We would love nothing better than to be proved unduly disheartened. The climate being conducive for "mutual cooperation", as Mr. Oakley would have us believe, surely the government of the United States would know how to help Pakistan and India profit by it. Now would be the time for the American Ambassador in Pakistan to advise Washington to launch an initiative. Superpowers have a moral duty to help promote "mutual cooperation" where it should be so urgently needed as in this subcontinent at this moment. If there is anything more to Mr. Oakley's honeyed cadences about Pakistan and India than a diplomat's quite legitimate desire to please, then nobody would know it better than the US Ambassador what to do next. The job is clearly cut out. Make a move to bring Pakistan and India to the negotiating table.